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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

In the budget tussle between the House and the Senate, which number of work-hour cuts do you support?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Net Bullying

The shocking suicide of a college student illustrates yet again the Internet's alarming potential.

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Church Backpedals

The president of the CBCP says the Church was not thinking of excommunicating President Benigno Aquino III.

MAHARLIKA...Page 13

Tony Curtis, 85

From dressing in drag to posing nude for his 80th birthday, Tony Curtis truly was a defiant one.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Commission starts early voting in the Northern Islands. PAGE 2
Fund's health and life insurance programs face risk. PAGE 3

Empty parking spaces and closed government offices, including that of the Division of Procurement and Supply, left,and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, right, in Lower Base yesterday afternoon, could be a common sight for days as the CNMI government's partial shutdown continues until a budget is passed. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

AS HOUSE, SENATE REMAIN DEADLOCKED

Prolonged partial shutdown seen

» Interior raises concern on public services; food drive to help affected workers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Over 1,400 government employees may have to wait a little longer to be able to report back to work because even as the unprecedented government partial shutdown began yesterday, the House of Representatives and the Senate are still deadlocked on the same contentious issues like work hour cuts and leadership accounts in the $132-million budget bill.

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House Bill 17-119 versions of House and Senate

	HOUSE	SENATE
Work hour cuts per pay period	16 hours	8 hours
Unpaid holidays	13	10
House leadership account	$400,000	$76,000
Senate leadership account	$300,000	$76,000
Rota budget	$6.256 million	$6.256 million
Tinian budget	$5.792 million	$6.256 million
Utilities payments	$8.262 million	$8.431 million
Judiciary	$2.972 million	$3.372 million
MVA	$3.561 million	$2.973 million

Obama delays CNMI wage hike for 2011

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

President Barack Obama has signed into law a measure that delays the scheduled 50-cent minimum wage increase in the CNMI in 2011, a proposal that two of the largest business organizations in the Commonwealth have been asking for.

Obama signed the law on Thursday, the same day that this year's minimum wage increase in the CNMI came into effect.

See OBAMA on Page 4

Local

Commission starts early voting in the Northern Islands

PSS has 193 teacher aides this school year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System has nearly 200 teacher aides and teacher assistants in 20 campuses on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian to start the new school year.

These educators, however, are not considered highly qualified based on the Board of Education policy and may not keep their jobs after the July 31, 2011deadline of the federal highly qualified personnel mandate.

Saipan Tribune learned that as of Sept. 24, PSS recorded a total of 581 classroom teachers and 193 teacher aides and teacher assistants for over 11,100 students in the three islands.

Data obtained by *Saipan Tribune* indicated that in elementary schools, PSS employs 302 classroom teachers and 136 teacher assistants and teacher aides.

At Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, its 230 students are manned by 16 classroom teachers and four teacher aides; Tanapag Elementary School has 15 classroom teachers and six teacher aides; Garapan Elementary School has 40 teachers and 21 teacher aides; Oleai Elementary School has 28 teachers and 15 teacher aides; and San Vicente recorded 36 teachers and 17 teacher assistants.

Dandan Elementary School also registered 24 teachers and 10 teacher aides; William S. Reyes has 37 and 17 teachers and teacher aides, respectively; San Antonio School has 17 and 6; Koblerville Elementary School has 21 teachers and 12 teacher aides; Tinian Elementary School posted 18 teachers and seven teacher assistants; Kagman Elementary School has 35 and 17 respectively; and Rota's Sinapalo Elementary School recorded 15 classroom teachers and four teacher aides.

In middle schools, PSS recorded 116 teachers and 30 teacher aides for the following campuses—Hopwood Junior High has 54 teachers and 14 teacher aides; Chacha Oceanview has 22 teachers and nine teacher aides; Rota Junior High has 12 and three, respectively; and Tinian Junior High School recorded 28 classroom teachers and four teacher aides.

In high school, PSS posted 163 teachers and 27 teacher aides for the following schools: Marianas High School recorded 65 teachers and eight teacher aides; Saipan Southern High School has 35 teachers and four teacher aides; Kagman High School recorded 46 classroom teachers and 11 teacher aides; and Rota High School recorded 17 classroom teachers and four teacher assistants.

As of last week, enrollment data in public schools indicated 604 enrollees in kindergarten; 75 students in first grade; 782 in second grade; 819 in third grade; 841 in fourth grade; 853 in fifth grade; 827 in sixth grade; 856 in seventh grade; 816 in eighth grade; 1,088 in ninth grade; 873 in 10th grade; 740 in 11th grade; and 716 students in 12th grade.

The early intervention program also recorded 53 students this school year, while the Head Start program posted 462 schoolchildren.

»Over 500 absentee ballots sent off-island

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission has already begun the voting process for the Northern Island this week, after receiving a signed copy of Public Law 17-16 that allows voters to cast their ballots 30 days before Election Day.

Executive director Robert Guerrero also confirmed yesterday that his office sent out over 500 absentee ballots so far to off-island voters.

The early voting period for the Northern Islands will give the commission time to coordinate transportation to the area due to budget constraints. As of yesterday, Guerrero said no one has yet to cast the first ballot from the Northern Islands.

Guerrero said the commission is communicating with the Northern Islands Mayor's Office to determine how many people are on the islands. He has yet to say if CEC will send poll workers to the islands to conduct the election.

"As soon as we receive the confirmation from the Northern Islands Mayor's Office, we will decide if there's a need to send our poll workers to the islands," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the mayor's office was supposed to fly to the islands this week but was hindered by the bad weather.

Guerrero also disclosed that because of the anticipated government shutdown starting today, all agency staff were instructed not to report for work unless given further notice.

The commission has seven employees, including the executive director—all of whom are not exempted from the government shutdown.

Guerrero said the processing of absentee requests and mailing out of ballots will be the first to be affected if the government shuts down.

The commission has to mail out the absentee ballots in order for voters to mail back the forms on or before Oct. 8.

Guerrero said shutting down the commission could delay the Nov. 3 elections.

OPERATION CNMI HOMEFRONT SUPPORT

Third care package drive for US military launched

NMC

Organizers of the Operation CNMI Homefront Support group pose for a group photo with the poster that will be displayed at local stores supporting the group's efforts to collect items for care packages that will be sent to deployed military personnel from the CNMI. From left: Lt. Col. Edward Camacho from Northern Marianas College, Mark Birmingham from Marianas Cable Vision, Geri Willis from NMC, Nola Hix from IT&E, and Candice Dunston representing John Hirsh from the American Red Cross.

Operation CNMI Homefront Support will be launching its third consecutive year of collecting donations to create care packages to send to U.S. military personnel from the CNMI.

Geri Willis of the Northern Marianas College has partnered with Mark Birmingham from Marianas Cable Vision, Nola Hix from IT&E, and John Hirsh from the American Red Cross to organize this year's care package drive.

"It doesn't matter whether these soldiers are deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, South Korea, Japan, or the United States mainland, they are still going to be away from home during the holidays, and we wanted to let them know how much we appreciate their sacrifices," said Willis.

According to Willis, the organization has sent out over 500 care packages to deployed soldiers during the past two years. These care packages contained a variety of items: issues of *Beach Road* magazine, the *Saipan Tribune* and *Marianas Variety*, coconut chips from Noriyasu Horiguchi, cookies from both Herman's Bakery and Joeten Hafa Adai Bakery, stamped holiday letters and handmade cards from the Friday Morning Stampers, dental care products from the SDA Clinic, and hand knitted caps from a local knitting club.

Other donations included in the care packages were letters and drawings from children, and funding for postage from the Bank of Saipan. Additional donations were made by the Saipan Rotary Club, Power 99, and KZMI, the CNMI governor, lieutenant governor, and from members of both the Senate and the House.

"The feedback we've received from the soldiers was that they were surprised and very appreciative of the packages sent by the community," said Willis. "Receiving items from home can help alleviate some of the stress of deployment, and instill in the minds of the soldiers that we're thinking of them."

"The group's biggest challenge has been in obtaining names and addresses of local soldiers serving in the military," adds Willis. "We would appreciate receiving names and addresses of all of these military personnel."

To provide names and addresses of deployed military personnel from the CNMI, contact Geri Willis by texting or calling 788-4663 (HOME) or emailing homefront@pticom.com to provide information.

To donate items for the care packages, local stores Joeten Superstore, Triple J Super Fresh Market, and Fleming's Store (Tinian) will have banners displayed at each location that list items pre-selected by the soldiers, such as Spam, Three Diamond tuna, Ichiban soba, BinBin crackers, dried mango, rice crackers, and other local favorites. These items will also have labels on them to indicate that they are a selected item. Donation boxes will be available at each location.

Items purchased at other stores may also be donated provided that the items are not liquid, or glass. To arrange for pickup of items, contact Geri Willis by texting or calling 788-4663 (HOME) or emailing homefront@pticom.com. ***(NMC)***

Saipan gas station chain sued for alleged discrimination, retaliation

AA Enterprises, Inc., which operates a chain of gas stations on Saipan, violated federal law when it discriminated against a class of female employees based on pregnancy and fired at least two female employees in retaliation for complaining, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission charged in a lawsuit filed earlier this week.

Although the law on Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands requires that employers pay for all of the medical expenses incurred by nonresident workers, AA Enterprises required at least four female nonresident gas station employees to pay for their own pregnancy-related medical expenses as a condition of employment, according to the EEOC.

ON THE NET
www.eeoc.gov

The women were allegedly threatened with termination if they did not pay their pay those bills.

However, the EEOC argues, nonresident employees were not required to pay for their non-pregnancy related medical expenses as a condition of continued employment, a stark difference in treatment based solely on pregnancy.

Within two weeks of the date that they filed EEOC charges of discrimination, AA Enterprises terminated two of the victims. The EEOC contends that the terminations were a form of illegal retaliation.

The EEOC filed its lawsuit in U.S. District Court for the District of the Northern Mariana Islands, arguing that AA Enterprises' conduct is a direct violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The suit was filed after first attempting to reach a pre-litigation settlement. The EEOC's suit seeks back pay, compensatory and punitive damages on behalf of the victims, as well as injunctive relief intended to prevent further discrimination at the company.

"Pregnant women have the right to not only keep their jobs throughout their pregnancy, but also to be treated fairly irrespective of condition," said Anna Y. Park, regional attorney for the EEOC's Los Angeles District Office, which has jurisdiction over the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. "This is a case where the company defied the territory's own laws for the sole purpose of discriminating against its pregnant employees."

Timothy Riera, director of the EEOC's Honolulu Local Office, added, "Employees have the right to voice their concerns over unfair, biased treatment on the job. Employers who take adverse actions against employees who do so can and will be held liable for retaliation."

The EEOC enforces federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination.

The case is EEOC v. AA Enterprises, Inc., Case No. CV 10-0024. ***(EEOC)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

USS Defender arrives on Saipan today

The USS *Defender*, a 224-foot Avenger-class mine countermeasures ship with approximately 85 officers and crew, is arriving in Saipan this morning, Oct. 2, 2010. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is looking at hosting a welcome reception for the officers and crew of the *Defender*. The Chamber will be represented at the arrival briefing. "Please help us continue to build our reputation as the preferred MWR (Morale, Welfare, and Recreation) destination in the Asia-Pacific Region by warmly welcoming these sailors to our islands," said Kyle Calabrese, Chamber executive director. The *Defender* is scheduled to depart in the middle of next week. ***(PR)***

Chamber meeting next Wednesday

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be holding its next general membership meeting next Wednesday, Oct. 6, at the Saipan Grand Hotel. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. As usual, the meeting is $15 for members, $20 for guests of members, and $25 for general public. ***(SCC)***

Navy to conduct training on Warning Area-517

Santa Rita, Guam—The Navy will conduct training on Warning Area-517 on Oct. 5-6, from 8am to 5pm.

The public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from these areas during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(USN)***

DUE TO CLOSURE OF OFFICE:

Fund's health and life insurance programs face risk

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund warned that a prolonged government shutdown will hamper its ability to issue checks to retirees as well as maintain their and active government employees' health and life insurance coverage.

In a closure notice posted Thursday noon, the Fund said its office will be closed to any activity and transaction because no staff will be allowed to work.

"The Fund cannot guarantee that there will not be a delay in receipt of manual benefits checks or for those receiving automatic benefits payments into their bank accounts on Oct. 15. Please be prepared for the possibility that you may not receive your pension checks in Oct. 15," stated the notice.

Despite Fund officials' best efforts, the agency was not included in the updated list of exempted government entities.

Although management assured that it is working diligently to prepare for the Oct. 15 issuance of checks to retirees, it admitted that there will be a delay.

It added that its management and staff will do all that is necessary and within the confines of the law to ensure the benefits are timely paid.

The Fund also apologized for any inconvenience it may cause beneficiaries and asked for their understanding.

The agency also advised that a prolonged period of shutdown may also affect the ability of the CNMI government to maintain the Government Health and Life Insurance Program, which covers health and life insurance for active government employees and retirees.

It assured affected beneficiaries that it will provide more information in the next days.

In the same notice of closure, the Fund encouraged the beneficiaries to help lobby their elected leaders to pass a balanced budget and seek their help in asking the governor to allow staffers of the Fund to prepare for the retirement, survivor, disability, and annuity payments in a timely manner.

"The Fund management is working diligently on both of these tasks to try to provide your payments in a timely manner," added the notice.

Discover the Magic of Seeing seminar starting today

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

Photographer Bryan Jones will be conducting a digital photography seminar dubbed "Discover the Magic of Seeing" today at Whispering Palms School at Navy Hill.

The seminar will be held from 8:30am to 12:30 pm. The seminar costs $25 per person.

Participants must provide their own digital camera to be used during the seminar.

"The seminar is not so much about how to use your camera but about how to find the 'hidden magic' within you that will enable you to create images," Jones told *Saipan Tribune*.

A graduate of Brooks Institute of Santa Barbara in California, Jones worked as a special projects photographer based out of Houston, Texas and Bali, Indonesia for over 33 years.

According to Jones, instruction manuals for cameras can be very complicated so putting it on automatic mode can make it simpler when you are first starting to use your new camera.

"Don't be fooled by all the new cameras available on the market. You can use a simple camera and still be able to express a lot of emotions and ideas in your photography," he said.

Jones said he feels that people can depend on their individuality when using their cameras to create beautiful and artistic images.

Jones has arranged for renowned local photographer Del Benson to make an appearance during the seminar and make a presentation about the Send Out Card program, a browser-based software that lets you create your own greeting cards.

Benson will also discuss the importance of lighting in photography and the use of natural lighting and inexpensive reflectors, he said.

Jones is encouraging everyone to "discover the magic of seeing" through his seminar. "Learn how to express yourself photographically," he added.

Guam's commercial seaport gets $2M grant

WASHINGTON D.C.—The Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Tony Babauta on Thursday signed an infrastructure grant award to the Government of Guam for $2 million to support projects currently underway with the Guam Port Authority's Modernization Program.

The additional $2 million comes on the heels of the Department of Defense's recent announcement of the availability of $50 million for Guam's Port Authority; allowing for the approval of a $54.5 million loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to repair and modernize Guam's port facilities.

"This funding further demonstrates Guam's importance and the Federal government's view that the island be prepared to accommodate the upcoming growth in commerce due to the relocation of U.S. Marines from Okinawa, Japan," Babauta said. "The port facilities on any island are crucial when growth in the economy is anticipated; over the next decade, Guam will see a movement of goods and services exceeding $12 billion dollars. Guam Governor Felix P. Camacho has directed the Guam Port Authority to have an aggressive plan to repair, modernize, and transform its facilities into an operation with world-class standards and I'm pleased to be working with Guam Congresswoman Madaleine Z. Bordallo to identify and provide assistance toward that end."

The grant will allow the Port Authority of Guam to contract professional consultants to carryout topographic surveys, to upgrade the Port's crane and terminal operating system, and for dredging and reclamation planning. These funds will be further leveraged with Guam Port Authority's Modernization Program matching funds to create a longer-term, sustainable financing mechanism. The Port was originally constructed by the U.S. Navy in the 1969 and turned over to the Government of Guam in the 1970s. ***(PR)***

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PUBLIC NOTICE

MICHAEL S. KATSUREN
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Any transactions made by him on behalf of the company will not be accepted.

Govendo restores Saluta's original $5,250 cash bail

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo reduced yesterday the $10,000 cash bail he earlier imposed on Noel Saluta, the jobless man who surrendered to police last week after learning of an arrest warrant for him over an alleged assault incident that happened more than a year ago.

Govendo, however, found probable cause during yesterday's preliminary hearing to warrant the filing of charges against Saluta.

Govendo ordered the 40-year-old Saluta to answer the charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, and disturbing the peace. Arraignment is on Oct. 4.

Chief Prosecutor Mike Ernest said that Saluta, a Filipino, has no legal status to remain in the CNMI. Saluta claimed he has a pending Labor case.

Assistant public defender Douglas Hartig, counsel for Saluta, said that Saluta is not a flight risk as shown when he voluntarily surrendered to authorities in his willingness to resolve the matter in court.

The lawyer said that in the week since the arrest warrant was issued, Saluta turned himself in to authorities within two hours of being informed by a *Saipan Tribune* reporter that a warrant had been issued for his arrest.

Through text messages, this writer was able to convince Saluta to surrender to DPS that day, Sept. 22. Saluta said at the time that he was not aware about the arrest warrant.

Hartig said that Saluta and his wife are jobless and they have five small children.

"Mr. Saluta should be allowed to return to his family pending final disposition of this case. The alleged offense is not an act of domestic violence and did not involve children," Hartig said.

According to police, Saluta had confronted Alejandro Orellano for staring at him and then chased him with a knife on April 19, 2009, at the Fina Sisu Market.

Saluta denied the charges.

Saluta recently attracted media attention after he and his family were forced to take shelter at the Susupe Regional Beach Park stage after being turned out from their rented house. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

OBAMA

From Page 1

Starting Sept. 30, 2010, the CNMI's minimum wage became $5.05 an hour, from $4.55 an hour.

But next year's 50-cent increase will be skipped, and will resume in 2012.

A federal law signed in 2007 requires a yearly 50-cent increase in the CNMI's minimum wage until it reaches the federal wage floor of $7.25 an hour.

The minimum wage amendment was included in Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo's H.R. 3940, which allows for federal funding of public education to consider Guam's political status.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, in a phone interview yesterday, said he's happy that the minimum wage went up Thursday and will take a pause next year.

This will allow private and public employers in the CNMI to have some breathing room, after a 66-percent increase in minimum wage since 2007.

Sablan also cited the importance of having the U.S. General Accountability Office study the impact of future minimum wage increases.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said he is "very pleased" to learn of the approval to suspend the minimum wage increase for 2011.

He expressed his appreciation for the efforts of American Samoa Delegate Eni Faleomavaega and Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo for assisting the CNMI in successfully garnering the needed support of U.S. Congress members.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said one of the governor's early courses of action following his second inauguration was sending a joint letter with American Samoa Gov. Tulafono and Faleomavaega requesting the U.S. Congress to delay minimum wage increases in the CNMI and American Samoa.

"Initially, Delegate Kilili was poised to also sign the same letter. However, he later withdrew his intent and instead lobbied for the continued increases despite constant calls by the business community to delay the matter. This is evident in Faleomavaega's press release today that notably leaves out the NMI delegate," he said.

H.R. 3940, which Obama signed on Sept. 30, will also delay the minimum wage increase for 2010 and 2011 in American Samoa.

Faleomavaega said in a statement that the issue of future increases will be revisited in 2012 based on the findings of a GAO study to be conducted by 2011.

He said the delay in the wage increase is "necessary for stabilizing our economy."

In the CNMI, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands sought Sablan's help in supporting a one-year moratorium on the annual 50-cent minimum wage increase.

In a June 2010 letter to Sablan, Chamber president Douglas Brennan and HANMI president Nick Nishikawa also said that while the 66-percent increase in minimum wage from $3.05 an hour in 2007 to $5.05 on Sept. 30 this year is a "tremendous step forward" in fairly compensating the CNMI's workforce, the balance of the CNMI economy has not kept pace with it.

They said it is in nobody's interest—not workers, not businesses, and not the government—for uncontrolled cost increases to lead to business closures.

But workers in the CNMI are not necessarily happy because while they get a 50-cent hourly increase in their salaries, their employers could also take away their free housing or require them to partially pay for it.

The CNMI government is also affected by this year's increase because there are government employees paid less than $5.05 an hour.

Moreover, the hourly wage increase couldn't have come at the worst possible time when the CNMI government has been partially shutdown effective Oct. 1 because of a lack of a timely passed balanced budget. Among other things, the shutdown means over 1,400 government employees will be temporarily out of job, until a budget is passed and signed into law.

SHUTDOWN

From Page 1

Senate floor leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) said the longer the House delays its session to act on a budget bill, the longer it takes for a budget to be passed.

"The continuous postponement of the House sessions is a ploy to delay the approval of a budget," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune*.

Since Thursday, the House postponed or delayed its session at least four times.

The first one was set for 10am Thursday, then to 3pm that day. Another was set for 5pm yesterday, which was rescheduled to 10am today, and later moved to 2pm today.

Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro's (Cov-Saipan) office assured of this afternoon's session.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) said each day or hour that the House postpones its session, it becomes "a living nightmare for the thousands of government employees and their families who rely on government payroll to provide their basic needs such as food, shelter, power, and water, essential in sustaining their livelihood."

"As public servants, we must work cohesively in order to protect and defend the best interests of our general public. As public servants we must also perform our duties to the best of our ability so we would not lose public trust and confidence," she added.

Concerned citizens are expected to troop to the Legislature at 2pm today when the House holds a session to act on either the Senate-amended budget bill or a new budget bill that Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) introduced late Thursday night.

But Basa's latest budget bill still contains the sore issues that the Senate has been objecting to.

These include a 16-hour work cut per pay period, 13 unpaid holidays and a tremendous increase in the Legislature's leadership account from the current $76,000 to $400,000 for the House.

The Senate wants only an eight-hour cut per pay period and 10 unpaid holidays, and for the leadership account to remain at its current level.

Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) said yesterday it's unfortunate that the House keeps on delaying its session until it passed the Sept. 30 deadline.

"We were here at the Senate until midnight on standby, to make sure that we could act immediately on any House action on the budget bill because it was the last day to pass a budget. Here we are, waiting for the 5pm session only to find out they rescheduled it to Saturday morning and then to afternoon," Manglona said.

Manglona wrote to House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) yesterday, calling again for a joint meeting of the 29 House and Senate members at 10am today "to discuss our differences until we successfully compromise on a budget."

He said it would be better to have this meeting before the House holds its 2pm session today.

"We will not vote, and agree not to suggest any voting until the leadership of both houses is satisfied that we have reached an agreement," Manglona told Tenorio.

Former House speaker Pedro Deleon Guerrero, who is Ogumoro's advisor, said the Senate was already drafting heir substitute bill even before the House could pass and transmit the budget bill on Wednesday night.

Deleon Guerrero also lashed at the media for not pointing this out.

"The Senate didn't even look at the House budget bill," he said.

Deleon Guerrero also said that the Senate made sure that Rota and Tinian will get tourism money under the "all others" account of the Marianas Visitors Authority, including $315,000 to subsidize charter flights from Japan to Rota under the expenditure authority of the Rota mayor, and $315,000 to promote and market Tinian as a tourist destination with the mayor as expenditure authority.

Without a balanced budget passed for FY 2011, the government shutdown will continue.

Only essential services directly involved in public safety, health, welfare and education will continue to operate. They are also the only ones that will receive salaries. The rest, including lawmakers, forfeits their salaries until they pass a budget bill.

Many government offices and public services were closed yesterday and are not expected to reopen soon due to the continuous impasse between the House and Senate.

This is the first time in CNMI history that only so-called essential services and positions are required to report to work.

Of some 4,000 CNMI government employees, over 1,400 employees are considered non-essential and are therefore not required to report to work until a budget is passed.

Federal concern

U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta issued a statement yesterday expressing concern with the disagreements between the CNMI House and Senate over approving a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2011.

"I am confident that the governor will ensure that all essential services to protect the safety and welfare of CNMI residents will remain undisrupted. During this time, my office will work with other federal agencies to make certain that federal programs operating in the CNMI continue. I am hopeful that a practical resolution can be reached promptly," Babauta said.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, in a statement, said the partial shutdown of the Commonwealth government is a local matter, which can only be resolved by the local Legislature and the governor.

"I hope that resolution comes quickly because whether they resolve this matter today, or tomorrow, they will need to resolve it. So they might as well do it today. We must all be concerned, however, about the health and safety of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands," he said.

Sablan said during this time, his office will work with other federal agencies to make certain that federal programs operating in the CNMI continue and if federal assistance becomes necessary to assure that the people are protected, his office will take the appropriate action to enlist federal aid.

Food drive

Concerned citizens led by Ed Propst have also started a food drive to help those families affected by the partial government shutdown.

Propst said he and others are helping Karidat and Ayuda Network in collecting non-perishable items like canned goods, as well as rice, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and other basic items that families of government employees affected by the shutdown would need should the shutdown takes longer than a few days.

He said given the continuous impasse between the House and the Senate, the government shutdown may take longer than expected.

Fitial blames Senate

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed on Thursday an executive order declaring a state of emergency and ordering the constitutionally mandated shutdown of non-essential government services due to the legislature's failure to pass a balanced budget before fiscal year 2011 began Oct. 1.

Fitial said he and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, cognizant of the anticipated impact by the ratification of Legislative Initiative 16-11, acted in good faith and reason to ensure that their administration met the constitutional obligation to submit a proposed balanced budget to the Legislature on April 1.

By way of his submission, he said he fulfilled his obligation to all government employees and more importantly, to the Commonwealth people.

Fitial said it's unfortunate that six months later, the Legislature still has failed to pass and transmit a sound and balanced budget for his approval.

He said the majority members of the House have grasped the bleak reality of the government's financial resources and have attempted to pass a budget bill reflecting his administration's proposal to operate within the resources of $132 million through the implementation of a 16-hour reduction per pay period and the imposition of unpaid holidays.

But he said the Senate members "have consistently refused to accept a proposal that would, at the end of the day, save the jobs of government employees."

Senators said a 16-hour cut and 13 unpaid holidays are "too drastic," especially for those earning only less than $13,000 a year.

They said the House proposal translates to a 26-percent cut in employees' salaries.

Fitial said the Senate instead offered a substitute legislation that would result in the immediate layoff of 383 government employees, "simply because of a political maneuver to increase appropriations for the municipalities of Tinian and Rota."

But senators said the governor's statement is not true.

The Senate-amended budget bill reflected the House and governor's proposal for Rota of $6.256 million. The Senate also gave $6.256 million to Tinian, the same amount that the governor submitted, but the House lowered this to $5.79 million.

"I had hoped that the members would have taken into consideration the financial constraints that will span across the Commonwealth. However, it became increasingly clear that special interests and the desire to protect their political ambitions were placed above their duty to serve the people effectively and efficiently," the governor said.

Some government employees are blaming the elected leaders who are responsible for passing and signing into law a budget bill.

"I still cannot fathom the idea that some of our elected leaders have opted to delay the issue further. Sincerely, they do not have balls and galls. I am ashamed and mad at myself for casting my vote on some of the illiterate, irresponsible, and heartless elected leaders," said a long-time government employee on Capital Hill.

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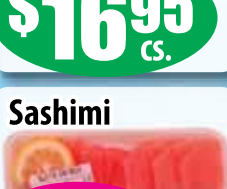

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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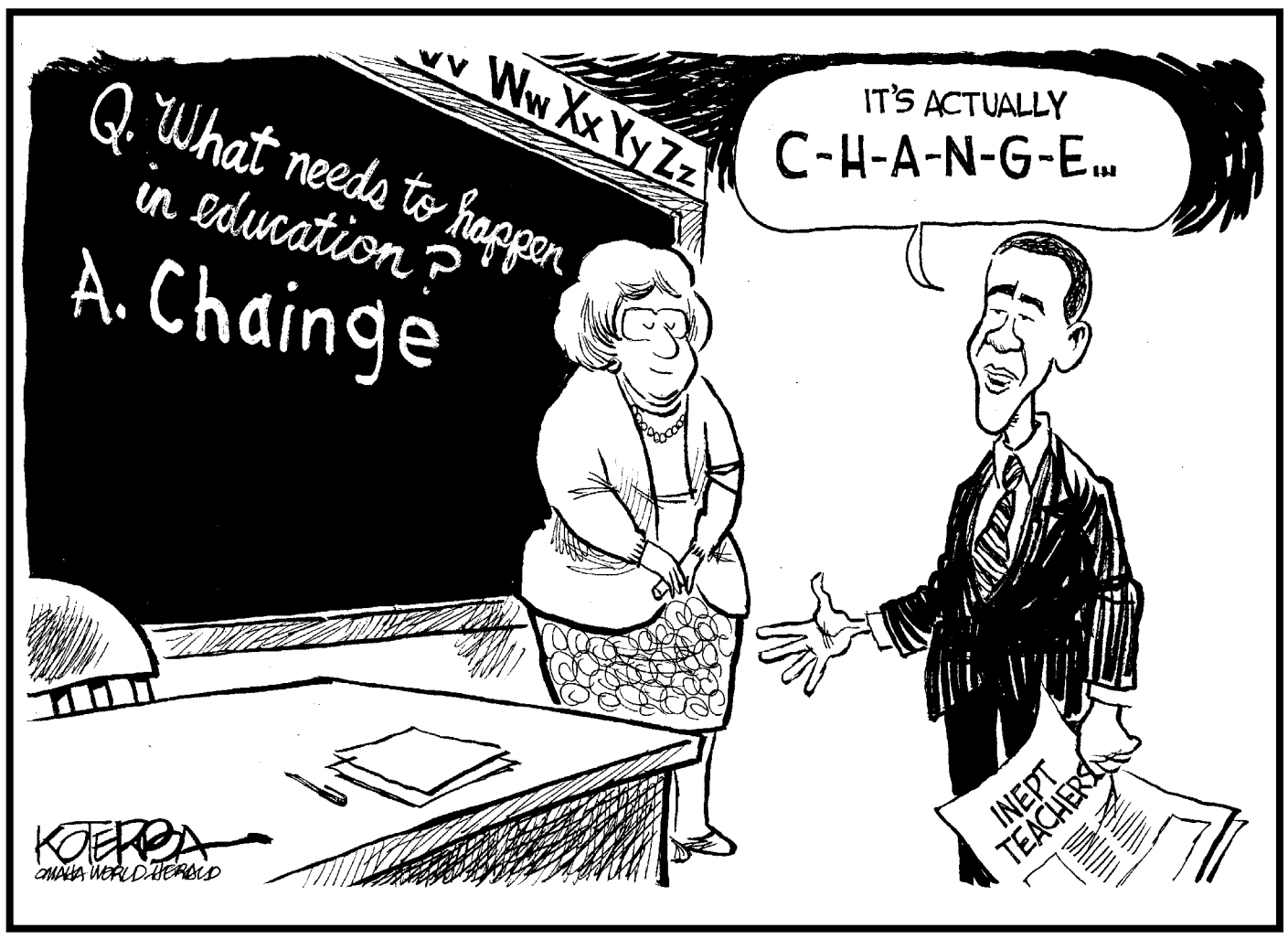

EDITORIAL

The son also rises

The top leadership of the Workers' Party in North Korea meets once every 30 years whether it needs to or not. The congress that opened Tuesday is the party's highest-level assembly since 1980, and seems to have been called to anoint a successor to "Dear Leader" Kim Jong Il—presumably his youngest son, Kim Jong Eun.

The little Dear, who is twentysomething, was promoted just before the meeting to the military rank of four-star general, according to the country's official news media, which also happen to be the only news media in Kim-controlled North Korea. And that's about all we know of the events taking place in Pyongyang, in a global information age when far too much is communicated about things that don't matter, while dangerously little is available on the nuclear Hermit Kingdom and its next-of-Kim.

This page is not enamored of family dynasties, and even less so when the heir to the dictatorship is an enigma. There are a couple of childhood photographs of Jung Eun, who reportedly studied in Switzerland, supposedly is temperamental, likes basketball and, according to the family's former sushi chef, "never admits defeat." Korea-watchers believe he wouldn't make major changes in the way the government deals with the rest of the world, which is to say that he would maintain its adherence to juche, or self-reliance, through closed borders and a closed economy, and would continue its nuclear brinkmanship. Unless he feels the need to prove his mettle, in which case he could be even more bellicose than his father.

Or so it is said.

At the last party meeting, Kim Jong Il was declared the successor to his father, "Great Leader" Kim Il Sung. When he took the reins in 1994, skeptics said he'd never last. Now the same is said about the little Dear, whose aunt also was elevated to the rank of general this week, presumably so that she and her husband, who is vice chairman of the National Defense Commission, could serve as regents to the inexperienced next leader.

It is truly remarkable how little outsiders understand about this country of about 24 million people, who are as cut off from us as we are from them. China helps prop up the regime as a buffer between itself and the tens of thousands of U.S. troops in South Korea, and out of fear that the collapse of the Pyongyang government could send millions of refugees across their shared border. Asian markets also prefer stability over sudden change or, worse, unrest. The family dynasty mixes favors, ideology and ruthlessness to maintain its grip on power. North Koreans, meanwhile, suffer the regime's economic and political repression in a country that offers little information even to its own people.

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James Dean, the epitome of cool

By JAIME O'NEILL
LOS ANGELES TIMES

James Dean died 55 years ago Thursday, killed in a dramatic car wreck east of Paso Robles, Calif., that became the stuff of legend. He was 24 when he died, and he inadvertently managed to take a lot of my generation with him, creating a cultural template for the risks we should take with our own lives. Had he lived, he'd be 80 in February.

I was 13 when I first saw him in the movies, and his films offered me an introductory course in how to be a teenage boy in the 1950s. I saw "Rebel Without a Cause" half a dozen times, mostly because I was studying James Dean—his moves, his posture, his way of speaking. I began filching cigarettes from my mother's purse, practicing how to flip the butt away when I'd smoked it down to a nub, a casually smooth gesture that was, for me and for legions of other aspiring punks, the essence of cool. So completely did I incorporate what I borrowed from Dean that even now, edging toward my own more natural rendezvous with death, I occasionally catch myself in a gesture of his expropriated more than half a century ago.

James Dean

Dean also taught me, and lots of guys like me, that death was cool. We were a fairly death-soaked generation from the get-go, war babies and Cold War children with an emblematic nuclear mushroom clouding our futures. We were diving under our desks from first grade on, and we became consumers of the apocalypse, frightening ourselves with tales of what might lie ahead in movies like "On the Beach," or those cheesy sci-fi flicks that populated our dreams with monstrous mutants formed in the fallout from open-air nuclear testing. And there were books too, doomsday scenarios like "A Canticle for Leibowitz" or "Alas, Babylon," that posited post-apocalyptic visions we read as previews of what was to come.

But Dean made dying a little more palatable. We weren't the first or the last generation to be "half in love with easeful Death," but we worked that idea hard and long, with an array of stylistic refinements on the theme that are still sprinkled throughout our cultural iconography.

It was no accident that a raft of rock bands emerging after the assassination of President Kennedy took death as their logo, from the Grateful Dead onward, offering fey and weary salutes to the reaper in music stores festooned with photos of Dean and even Marilyn Monroe—two of the prime young sacrifices on death's exalted altar. And there would soon be more, because not long after the Who sang "I hope I die before I get old," Jim Morrison, Janis Joplin, Mama Cass and Jimi Hendrix chalked themselves up on death's scoreboard, acolytes in Dean's ministry.

The parade didn't stop there. The shadow of James Dean has fallen across all of the generations since the 1950s, with dorm rooms still adorned with his image and pop bands still extolling the virtues of death, banging the drum slowly across the genres. Springsteen sang "I wanna die with you Wendy on the streets tonight." Sid Vicious overdosed and left behind a note: "Please bury me next to my baby in my leather jacket, jeans and motorcycle boots." Michael Jackson, the King of Pop, danced with the dead in his biggest hit. The current crop of young people is obsessed with zombies and vampires in movies and books. And so it goes.

Dean's own death was surely a good career move, allowing him to escape the fate of selling reverse mortgages or diabetes treatments to his fellow geriatrics; allowing him, in our minds at least, to fulfill one of the mantras of my youth: "Live fast, die young, and leave a good-looking corpse.

It was all bravado in the face of fear. James Dean died for our sins of life-denial. In "Rebel Without a Cause," he gave us the template for flaming out. Though his character survived, the central message most of us devotees took from it was that we should take it to the limit and flirt with the edge.

In the famous "chickie run" scene, Jim Stark, the character Dean plays, races toward a cliff, diving from the car just before it plunges to the rocks below. The kid he was running against didn't get out of his car in time, and so he died. Bummer.

We learned that it was cool to shrug at death, and passed it along. And that may be why the image of James Dean, young and doomed, is everywhere, from Wal-Mart to the Smithsonian, forever encased in youth. It's impossible to imagine Dean at 80, or even at 50. He is, forever and ever amen, a troubled teen in a red jacket, collar up and shoulders hunched, perfect in his rebellion. Against death, against our fear of it.

Jaime O'Neill is a writer in Northern California; he wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

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China's prosperity anxiety

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times*. Readers may send him e-mail at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.*

I spent many hours talking with officials during a 10-day trip to China. But what has stuck with me most vividly is not what I learned in government briefings but what I learned from talking with Chinese people about their everyday concerns.

People in China are surprisingly anxious about their newfound prosperity. They worry about the economy producing enough good jobs for millions of new college graduates. They fret about the rising price of housing for newly married couples—at least $45,000 for a modest apartment in Beijing, a small fortune in a country with a per capita income of about $3,000 in urban areas. They worry about whether a real estate bubble has formed. ("Do you think we've overbuilt?" an anxious young official who just bought his first home asked me, under the mistaken assumption that an American would certainly know a real estate bubble when he sees one.) They grouse about the conspicuous consumption of the nouveau riche and wonder where all that money is coming from.

Let's start with consumption. It is conspicuous, at least in the big cities. Sales of Mercedes-Benz and BMW SUVs are booming in a country whose primary commuter vehicle, until recently, was the humble bicycle. At glitzy nightclubs like Club 88, well-dressed young professionals stay up late ordering $100 bottles of vodka. At a shiny new Gucci boutique, a crocodile purse is on sale for $9,000—and that's in the provincial southwestern city of Chengdu, not cosmopolitan Shanghai or Beijing. "I can remember when 6,000 yuan (about $900) was a lot of money," a salesclerk told one of my colleagues. "Now 60,000 ($9,000) is nothing."

Not surprisingly, that kind of new wealth sometimes engenders resentment among the 1-billion-plus who don't have it yet—and the antipathy is based on more than mere jealousy.

"Chinese people are suspicious of anyone who gets rich," a Beijing businessman told me. "They think the only way to get rich is to know somebody and get in on an inside deal."

Corruption is endemic in China's communist regime—enough so that the government regularly announces new anti-corruption measures. In July, Beijing ordered officials to begin disclosing not only their own incomes and investments but those of their spouses and children too. Many of them, it turned out, had been granting government contracts in return for "gifts," salaries or investment shares for family members. One economist, Wang Xiaolu, has estimated that the unreported (and untaxed) "gray income" of government officials last year came to a staggering 5.4 trillion yuan (about $800 billion at the official exchange rate), according to the Communist Party newspaper, the People's Daily, which has been on a crusade against corruption.

Income inequality is another major concern. Cities and provinces have raised the legal minimum wage. In Guangzhou, for example, it's now 1,100 yuan ($164) a month, more than four times what it was in 1993. But the gap between the wealthy, the emerging middle class and everyone else has both government officials and ordinary citizens worried.

Some communist economists have proposed evening things out a bit by introducing two capitalist inventions—the property tax and the estate tax—to supplement the widely evaded income tax. But those ideas have touched off a debate within the Communist Party over the question, familiar in the West, of whether higher taxes will discourage entrepreneurship.

Another worry, for some, is the growing generation gap.

The Chinese talk about the "post-'80s" generation—people under 30, who have grown up knowing only economic reform and prosperity. Many of those younger workers, one study found, are abandoning Chinese culture's traditional goal of "harmony" and are instead pursuing a personal goal of "identity."

"We're individualistic, creative, independence-seeking," a 30-year-old bureaucrat told me with a slightly self-mocking smile. "And there's a post-'90s generation too," he added. "They're completely Westernized."

All this newly minted attitude has parents worried. "This generation"—the post-'80s cohort—"is spoiled," psychiatrist Li Zhongyu complained to the government-owned China Daily. "They don't know what responsibility is." One commonly heard view is that the post-'80s are so demanding because they are all only children, born—and then cosseted—under the population control policy known as "one family, one child."

The Chinese economy needs the younger generation to be fully engaged. Thanks to "one child," the size of the labor force aged 20 to 29 shrank by almost 15% in the last decade. And China's population is aging fast; by 2035, economists say, there will be two retirees for each worker. By then, the population, now 1.3 billion, should have peaked at 1.5 billion and started to decline—if the one-child policy holds.

Young Chinese complain about how the policy restricts individual freedom (women who become pregnant a second time are often pressured to have abortions) and because those with political connections and money can often win exemptions—or simply pay a hefty fine (typically $30,000, but it varies by income).

"People who can have two children are very lucky," a young woman told me wistfully. The government says it's going to experiment with more lenient forms of the policy, beginning with permission for "double singles" (couples who are both only children) to have two kids—but only in some areas.

So is China's next generation more like us? Not entirely. Most of them are tolerant of things American youth would never accept. They don't talk explicitly about politics, or complain about one-party rule, or protest the censorship that still curbs their access to the Internet—at least, not to a foreign columnist. Their access to Starbucks and McDonald's hasn't turned them into democrats (or republicans) yet. They seem driven to amass wealth and prestige for their families—a traditional Chinese pursuit—but have little apparent desire to question the existing social order.

As members of China's post-'80s generation rise to positions of authority, it seems likely that political change will follow. But don't forget the most remarkable thing of all: how adaptable China's hierarchical system of authority has proved despite waves of massive change.

Stoning remains a way of death in Iran

By RASA SOWLAT
THE INSTITUTE FOR WAR&PEACE REPORTING

TEHRAN—Despite judicial rulings against the practice and the massive international damage it does to the country's image, the Iranian government appears incapable of stopping the practice of execution by stoning.

The most recent case to create an international outcry is that of Sakineh Mohammadi-Ashtiyani, who was convicted of committing adultery and sentenced to be stoned to death. In July, the execution was put on hold after the sentence attracted international attention.

For both married men and women, extramarital sex is punishable by death by stoning. In practice, the law is applied unequally, with women far more likely than men to be convicted and executed by being half buried in the ground and then pelted with rocks by a crowd.

Execution by stoning was first sanctioned in 1983 and confirmed again in 1991 and 1996.

Iranian law makes it almost impossible to obtain a conviction for adultery. Both individuals must confess four times to having committing adultery. If either individual withdraws their confession, the case is dropped.

Otherwise, to obtain a conviction, prosecutors must present a number of witnesses who are willing to testify that they saw the couple engaged in a sexual act.

Even then, if the couple repents, a judge can offer clemency.

In practice, however, some judges base their rulings on a provision of the penal code that allows them to exercise their own "knowledge and judgment" in deciding a case.

Historically, stoning has been opposed by some of Iran's most influential leaders.

In 1980, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, considered the father of the Islamic Republic, advised the prosecutor general not to authorize stoning as a means of execution.

In 2002, the head of Iran's judiciary, Ayatollah Mahmoud Shahroudi, prohibited stoning. The order was issued in part to head off a United Nations resolution condemning Iran's record on human rights.

Neither move, however, appears to have been enough to stop some judges from ordering executions by stoning.

There are few reliable statistics on the number of stonings that have occurred in Iran, or whether they are happening more frequently under the regime of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

One high-profile case was that of Jafar Kiani and Mokarameh Ebrahimi, convicted of adultery in the small town of Takestan in northwest Iran.

Kiane was stoned to death in 2007, despite specific instructions from chief justice Shahroudi prohibiting the execution. The life of the woman in the case was eventually spared.

It was later reported that the couple had been legally married.

A new penal code, currently under consideration by the Guardian Council, makes no mention of stoning as a method of execution. But legal experts doubt that merely omitting it as a form of punishment will stop the practice.

So for now, at least, hard-line clerics and judges feel free to interpret Islamic law as they see fit. After all, no one here wants to appear soft on crime.

And because these hard-liners are seen as occupying the high ground of Islamic morality, few are willing to challenge their position.

As Ayatollah Mesbah-Yazdi, one of the staunchest proponents of traditional Sharia rules and penalties, said in August, the government "must carry out Islamic decrees and penal orders—if a person steals, we must cut his hand off. ... We cannot stand back from punishing those who have committed corruption."

Rasa Sowlat is a reporter in Iran who writes for The Institute for War & Peace Reporting, a nonprofit organization that trains journalists in areas of conflict. Readers may write to the author at the Institute for War & Peace Reporting, 48 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8LT, U.K.; Web site: www.iwpr.net. For information about IWPR's funding, please go to http://www.iwpr.net/index.pl?top=supporters.html.

Letters to the Editor

Open letter to lawmakers

Dear Mr. Senate President, Mr. House Speaker and Members of both Houses:

As one of the members of the Commonwealth Retirement Association, I want to voice publicly my great disappointment with your failure to carry our one of your primary constitutional responsibilities, which is to pass a budget to guide CNMI government spending for the upcoming fiscal year before Oct. 1.

Your inability to carry out your constitutional mandate to maintain public services is a major embarrassment to the whole CNMI community. We've undoubtedly become the laughing-stock of the entire region. The people of the Commonwealth elected you to protect their interest, and you have absolutely and totally failed them.

Being a full-time legislature, there was ample time to debate, discuss, hold public hearings, etc. to come up with a balanced budget, and to pass it well before October 1. However, you have obviously chosen to turn your back on your responsibility and, as a consequence, have left many public sector services unattended.

In addition, the lack of a budget prevents payment of health and life insurance premiums to the appropriate insurance carriers, particularly Aetna and IAC. Without premium payment from retirees and active government employees, health and life insurance coverage will be suspended. Many, especially retirees, need regular medical attention and monthly prescription refills. Without health insurance coverage, people's lives may be at stake.

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and members of both houses, we beg you to put the people's interest first and work toward an amicable solution between your two legislative bodies, and pass a budget so that the interest and of our people can be met as soon as possible.

Agnes McPhetres
via email

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During these hard times, let us work together to ensure that no man, woman, or child goes to bed hungry. I am kindly asking you to help out by donating non-perishable food items, such as canned goods.

You can reach me at 287-7883 or e-mail me at edpropst@rocketmail.com.

Thank you for your support and please forward this message to your friends and family who you feel would be willing to lend a helping hand.

Ed Propst
Dandan, Saipan

Adios!

To all Members of the 17th CNMI Legislature:

"Adios muchacho(s)."

Bill Stewart
via email

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

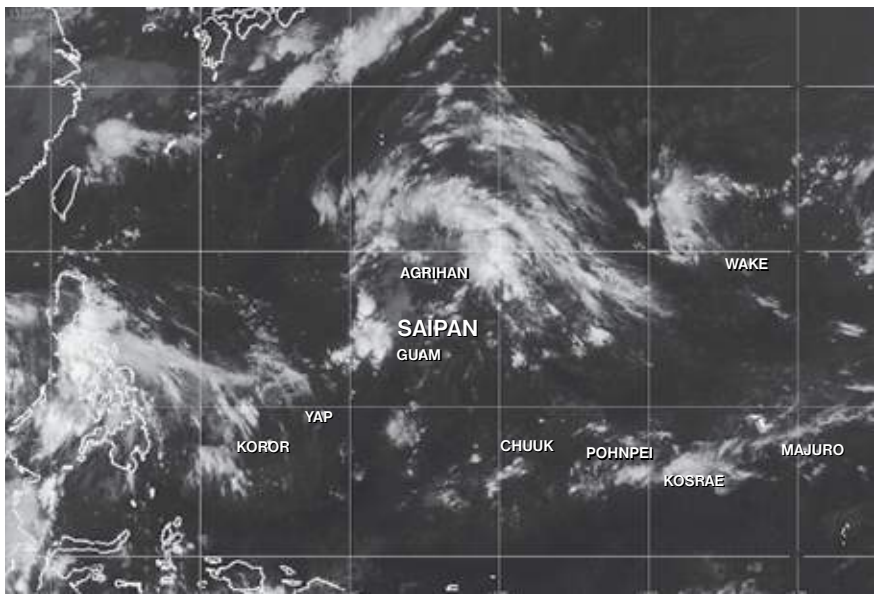
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼78
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼73
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼76
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲62	▼52
Beijing	Showers	▲73	▼51
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼79
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼74
London	Rain	▲63	▼59
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼63
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼80
Melbourne	Sunny	▲69	▼54
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼74
New York	Rain	▲67	▼51
Osaka	MostlI Sunny	▲81	▼72
Paris	Showers	▲67	▼56
Pusan	Windy	▲77	▼68
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼58
Salem	Sunny	▲77	▼51
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼60
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲76	▼63
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼66
Washington, DC	Windy	▲73	▼53

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough west of the Marianas extends southward from 22N141E through Joint Typhoon Warning Center invest area 94W centered near 14N141E to end near 10N138E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found west of the Marianas within 100 miles of a line from 25N143E to 13N141E. Another surface trough runs southward from 25N162E to 19N161E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located northwest of Wake Island between 24N and 20N from 160E to 164E. An upper-level trough extends southeastward from 25N160E to an upper-low east of Wake Island centered near 21N177E then turns northeastward to beyond 25N179E. Isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the low within an area bounded by a line from 25N169E to 25N178E to 17N176E back to 25N169E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found northeast of the CNMI within 100 miles of a line from 25N146E to 17N151E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers south of Pohnpei within 60 miles of a line from 5N157E to 6N165E and northwest of Koror within 100 miles of a line from 5N131E to 11N134E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:13 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
8:11 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
3:51 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
9:08 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:06 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:05 PM
Monday	6:07 AM	6:05 PM
Tuesday	6:07 AM	6:04 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:11 AM	1:28 PM
Sunday	1:11 AM	2:18 PM
Monday	2:11 AM	3:06 PM
Tuesday	3:12 AM	3:52 PM
Wednesday	4:12 AM	4:38 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA

DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily

NAGOYA-SAIPAN

DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service
located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Business

HP board's selection of CEO raises new doubts

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Hewlett-Packard Co.'s board upset many investors when it forced out Mark Hurd as CEO nearly two months ago. Now, those directors appear to have baffled Wall Street with its selection of HP's new leader—Leo Apotheker, who lost his job running German business software maker SAP earlier this year after he didn't live up to expectations.

Thursday's announcement caught almost everyone off guard, causing HP's shares to slip back into a funk that began in early August after the board ousted the well-regarded Hurd amid allegations of sexual harassment and deceptive expense reports.

Most analysts had expected HP to hire from within, or tap an outsider with a more impressive resume than Apotheker's.

"I thought it would be difficult for HP to hire an outsider and have its stock to go down, but this board seems to have found a way," Gleacher & Co. analyst Brian Marshall said.

HP shares fell $1.21, or 2.9 percent, in Thursday's extended trading. Before Apotheker's hiring was announced, the stock closed the regular session at $42.07, down 46 cents.

The market value of the world's largest technology company has been sagging since Hurd was shown the door, intensifying the pressure on HP's board to find a CEO who would restore investor confidence.

Apotheker, a 57-year-old German, spent most of his career at SAP AG before being promoted to CEO in April 2008. He lasted less than two years in the position. SAP decided not to renew his contract when it expired nearly eight months ago, largely because SAP's financial performance faltered after Apotheker raised the fees that the company's customers paid to maintain and upgrade software.

"SAP's customer relationships suffered badly and so did employee morale while (Apotheker) was there, so this is a bit of an odd choice by HP," said software analyst Paul Hamerman of Forrester Research.

But HP's board is confident it found the right man for the job.

"Leo is a strategic thinker with a passion for technology, wide-reaching global experience and proven operational discipline—exactly what we were looking for in a CEO," said Robert Ryan, the lead independent director on HP's board.

HP also named Ray Lane, another candidate for the CEO position, as its non-executive chairman.

Japan jobless rate falls to 5.1 percent in August

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's jobless rate improved in August, but prices fell for the 18th straight month as a strong yen extended deflation's hold on the economy.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 5.1 percent in August, the government said Friday. The result marks the second straight month of decline and follows a 5.2 percent reading in July.

Meanwhile, the core consumer price index, which excludes fresh food, retreated 1 percent in August from a year earlier, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications said.

The results, which matches Kyodo News agency's average market forecast, reflect the effects of a strong yen, which pushed import prices lower.

Friday's numbers wrap up a week of economic data that confirmed growing worries about Japan's export-driven recovery.

Trade figures on Monday showed that overseas shipments slowed for the sixth straight month. In the central bank's "tankan" survey released Wednesday, companies said they expect business sentiment to decline this quarter. On Thursday, the government said industrial output unexpectedly fell for the third straight month as cooling global demand pressured companies to cut production.

Analysts say the string of bad news is likely to convince the central bank to introduce new monetary easing steps when it meets next week.

The yen remains a serious threat even after authorities intervened in currency markets earlier this month for the first time in six years. The action initially bolstered the dollar to above 85-yen levels, but it has recently weakened to under 84 yen.

The preliminary core CPI for Tokyo—considered a barometer of broader price trends—fell 1 percent in September, pointing toward another nationwide drop this month.

While lower prices boost individual purchasing power, deflation is generally bad for the economy overall. It plagued Japan during its "Lost Decade" in the 1990s, hampering growth by depressing company profits, sparking wage cuts and causing consumers to postpone purchases. It also can increase debt burdens.

Nation

Calif. governor's race upended by immigrant maid

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—Meg Whitman's campaign for governor was thrown into turmoil Thursday as the Republican sought to fend off new evidence that she knowingly had an illegal immigrant housekeeper on her payroll for nearly a decade.

Whitman denounced the allegations as a "baseless smear attack" by Democratic challenger Jerry Brown in what has become a dead-heat race five weeks before the election.

The central issue is whether Whitman knew about a letter that the Social Security Administration sent her in 2003 that raised discrepancies about the housekeeper's documents—a possible tip-off that she could be illegal.

The letter is the foundation for claims by former maid Nicky Diaz Santillan that Whitman and her husband knew for years she was in the U.S. illegally, but kept her on the job regardless.

For two days, Whitman forcefully denied receiving any such letter and said she fired the $23-an-hour housekeeper last year immediately after learning she was illegal. But Whitman's husband changed course Thursday after a letter surfaced with what appeared to be his handwriting, forcing him to say he may have been aware of the correspondence back in 2003.

AP

Former housekeeper, Nicky Diaz Santillan, left, looks to her attorney Gloria Allred, as Allred displays a copy Thursday Sept. 30, 2010 of a purported 2003 letter that she says shows Republican gubernatorial candidate, Meg Whitman knew all along that her housekeeper might be an illegal immigrant, keeping the letter from the government after Whitman's husband, Dr. Griffith Harsh, partially filled it out and told the housekeeper to deal with it, during a news conference in Los Angeles.

The husband's shift only served to intensify the uproar in a contest that until now been focused on serious issues such as job creation, government spending and education in a state with a $19 billion deficit and 12.4 percent unemployment.

Now, the focus is on whether the billionaire GOP nominee for governor will take a polygraph test to respond to allegations brought by a celebrity-seeking attorney and her mysterious housekeeper client.

Revelations about the illegal housekeeper have also thrown Whitman's carefully managed campaign completely off track and opened the door for Democrats to accuse her of hypocrisy.

The former eBay chief executive has called for tougher sanctions against employers who hire illegal workers, and the fact that she employed an illegal immigrant maid from Mexico for nine years could undermine her credibility. She has also spent millions courting Latino voters, who could play a key role in determining the outcome of the race.

The housekeeper and lawyer Gloria Allred later produced a copy of the letter Thursday that they say shows Whitman's husband, Dr. Griffith Harsh III, partially filled it out and told the housekeeper to "check on this."

Allred said the housekeeper recognized the writing as belonging to Whitman's husband, and a handwriting specialist may be brought in to analyze her husband's penmanship. She claims it could prove that Whitman and her husband knew years earlier that Diaz Santillan might be illegal while working at their Silicon Valley mansion.

In a statement released by the campaign, Harsh said he did not recall receiving the letter, although it's possible he scratched out a note asking Diaz Santillan to follow up. He noted, however, that the letter does not say Diaz Santillan is illegal, it merely asks for more information.

"The essential fact remains the same, neither Meg nor I believed there was a problem with Nicky's legal status," the husband said. "The facts of this matter are very clear: Ms. Diaz broke the law and lied to us and to the employment agency."

Campaign adviser Rob Stutzman said "it's reasonable" the letter could be authentic, but added the campaign has questions about its whereabouts for seven years and if it is legitimate. At one point Thursday, the campaign said that Diaz Santillan may have intercepted the letter since she was in charge of the mail at the house.

NJ student's suicide illustrates Internet dangers

PISCATAWAY, N.J. (AP)—The shocking suicide of a college student whose sex life was broadcast over the Web illustrates yet again the Internet's alarming potential as a means of tormenting others and raises questions whether young people in the age of Twitter and Facebook can even distinguish public from private.

Clementi

Cruel gossip and vengeful acts once confined to the schoolyard or the dorm can now make their way around the world instantly via the Internet, along with photos and live video.

"It's just a matter of when the next suicide's going to hit, when the next attack's going to hit," said Parry Aftab, a New Jersey lawyer who runs the website WiredSafety.

Last week, Tyler Clementi, a shy, 18-year-old Rutgers University freshman and gifted violist, jumped to his death from the George Washington Bridge after his roommate and another classmate allegedly used a webcam to secretly broadcast his dorm-room sexual encounters with another man. The two classmates have been charged with invasion of privacy, with the most serious charges carrying up to five years in prison.

The suicide shocked and disturbed gay rights activists and others on campus.

"Had he been in bed with a woman, this would not have happened," said Rutgers student Lauren Felton, 21, of Warren, N.J. "He wouldn't have been outed via an online broadcast, and his privacy would have been respected and he might still have his life."

The Associated Press found at least 12 cases in the U.S. since 2003 in which children and young adults between 11 and 18 killed themselves after falling victim to some form of "cyberbullying"—teasing, harassing or intimidating with pictures or words distributed online or via text message.

In probably the best-known case, 13-year-old Megan Meier of Daddenne Prairie, Mo., hanged herself in 2006 after she received messages on MySpace—supposedly from a teenage boy—cruelly dumping her. An adult neighbor was later found guilty of taking part in the hoax, but the conviction was overturned.

Earlier this year, 17-year-old Alexis Pilkington of West Islip, N.Y., who had landed a college soccer scholarship, killed herself after receiving a stream of nasty messages.

Storms drench much of the East Coast; 5 killed

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—A massive rainstorm drenched the East Coast from the Carolinas to Maine on Thursday, causing at least five deaths, flooding roads and washing away months of dry weather.

The worst of the rain fell in North Carolina, where Jacksonville picked up 12 inches—nearly a quarter of its typical annual rainfall—in the six hours. Four people, including two children, were killed when the sport utility vehicle they were traveling in skidded off a rain-slicked highway and tumbled into a ditch filled with water, North Carolina troopers said. A fifth victim in the state likely drowned when his pickup veered off the road and into a river that was raging because of the rain.

The rain was part of a system moving ahead of the remnants of Tropical Storm Nicole, which dissipated over the Straits of Florida on Wednesday. Much of the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast were starting to move into a drought after the dry summer, and the fall storm provided several inches of much-needed rain.

In Walpole, N.H., Erin Bickford said the deluge was a welcome sight for her eight acres of vegetables. She said she hoped the moisture also would recharge wells that went dry in the town.

"We had almost no rain at all. Often, we could see it raining across the river, but it didn't come here. It was just dust. Even if it did rain, it would be a tiny bit, maybe half an inch," she said.

North Carolina Highway Patrol Trooper Gary Edwards said troopers initially reported five people were killed in the crash because two children, 3-year-old twins, did not have a pulse when emergency workers arrived on scene. However, rescuers were able to revive them and they were taken to a hospital alive.

ACROSS THE NATION

Jimmy Carter lands in DC after hospital stay

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former President Jimmy Carter landed in Washington on Thursday after spending two nights in an Ohio hospital recovering from a viral infection that doctors say likely gave him stomach problems. Carter, wearing a dark blazer, landed in a small private jet at Reagan National Airport just before 3 p.m. Thursday. He walked down the steps from the plane onto the runway and stepped into an SUV that immediately drove away. An airport police car escorted his SUV and two others from the airport. Doctors advised Carter, who turns 86 on Friday, to remain at MetroHealth Medical Center after he was rushed from an airplane to the emergency room Tuesday morning with an upset stomach.

Sources: Emanuel leaving White House on Friday

CHICAGO (AP)—White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel is set to give up his influential national post Friday to begin a run for Chicago mayor, a job he has long coveted but won't win unless he persuades voters he's still one of them. People close to Emanuel said he will fly home over the weekend and hit the streets Monday to talk to voters, after announcing his resignation Friday. White House spokesman Robert Gibbs says only that President Barack Obama will make a "personnel announcement" Friday morning, but even his vague comments made it eminently clear Emanuel is leaving. "He intends to run for mayor," one person close to Emanuel told The Associated Press, requesting anonymity to avoid pre-empting the announcement.

Wife: Writing notes helped missing hiker survive

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A real estate broker survived six days without food or water in the desolate Joshua Tree National Park by staying still and writing messages to his family on his hat, telling them what kind of funeral he wanted, who they could trust and how much he loved them, his wife said. Edward Rosenthal, 64, was on a day hike when he made a wrong turn trying to get back to his car on Sept. 24, Nicole Kaplan told The Associated Press by telephone just hours after her husband was rescued by a San Bernardino County sheriff's helicopter crew. He then strayed 13 miles before stopping and waiting for help. "He realized he was lost and could not go any further, so he lied low and wrote on his hat," Kaplan said.

Sheriff: Pirates shoot US man in Mexican waters

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—An American tourist was shot in the back of the head in Mexican waters on Thursday after being ambushed by armed boaters, a Texas sheriff said. It happened near the U.S. boundary of a lake where run-ins with pirates already had fishermen and Texas officials on alert. Zapata County Sheriff Sigifredo Gonzalez identified the victim as David Michael Hartley, 30. Hartley and his wife were riding personal watercrafts back from Mexico on Falcon Lake when about six gunmen approached in two boats, Gonzalez said. The sheriff said Hartley was shot as the couple sped away at the sight of the boaters. What happened to Hartley was unclear. Gonzalez said the man's wife tried circling back to pull him from the water, but she was forced to retreat to U.S. waters after being fired upon again.

Asia

Dozens of NATO oil tankers attacked in Pakistan

SHIKARPUR, Pakistan (AP)—Suspected militants in southern Pakistan set ablaze at least 27 tankers carrying fuel for U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan on Friday, police said.

The attack followed the Pakistani government's decision to shut a vital border crossing in apparent protest of a NATO incursion that killed three of its soldiers, and further underscored the risks posed to Western forces who rely heavily on land routes in Pakistan to supply their troops.

The tankers likely were headed to a second crossing that has remained open, and it was not immediately clear if they had been rerouted because of the closure.

The trucks were attacked shortly after midnight by some 10 gunmen, said Abdul Hamid Khoso, a senior police official.

The vehicles were parked at a terminal on the edge of Shikarpur town in Sindh province when the attackers opened fire, forcing drivers and others to flee, before setting the fires. No one is believed to have been wounded or killed. The trucks were still alight several hours after the attack.

Nisar Ahmed, a police official from Shukarpur, told The Associated Press that the tankers had arrived in Shikarpur from the southern port city of Karachi and were heading to Quetta, a major city in the southwest. From there, they likely would have used the Chaman border crossing.

Chaman remains open, unlike the Torkham border crossing, which Pakistan ordered closed to NATO trucks on Thursday.

Chaman has seen fewer attacks than Torkham, but the shutting of one point of entry to Afghanistan creates a bottleneck militants can easily exploit.

Militants and ordinary criminals frequently attack NATO supply trucks as they travel across Pakistan to landlocked Afghanistan. U.S. and NATO move the vast majority of their non-lethal supplies through Pakistan, but have long insisted the attacks have had relatively little impact.

3 Japanese freed by China due to arrive back home

TOKYO (AP)—Three Japanese held by China for allegedly entering a restricted military zone were due to return home Friday as tensions over a territorial dispute eased. But Tokyo pressed for the release of a fourth citizen still in Chinese custody. In recent weeks, following a collision between Japanese and Chinese boats near a string of islands claimed by both Asian giants, relations plunged to their lowest level in several years. In the wake of that spat, China imposed a de facto ban on Japan-bound exports of rare materials and suspended ministerial-level talks with Tokyo. Anti-Japanese protests laid bare decades-old anger in China toward Japanese wartime aggression as experts wondered how far the freeze would go.

But a thaw began earlier this week, and the three Japanese were freed Thursday after admitting to violating Chinese law. A fourth, identified as Sadamu Takahashi, remains under house arrest and was being investigated for illegally videotaping military targets, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan said the government would work to win Takahashi's release "as soon as possible."

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshito Sengoku told reporters Friday that Tokyo still "had no facts" to explain why the four men were detained or why three were released, according to the Kyodo News agency. Reports said the three left Shanghai on Friday morning.

The four men, employees of Fujita Corp., a Tokyo-based construction and urban redevelopment company, were in China working to prepare a bid for a project to dispose of chemical weapons abandoned in China by the Japanese military at the end of World War II, Fujita said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

NKorea prints photos of heir apparent Kim Jong Un

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea introduced its heir apparent to the world Thursday, a chubby-faced young man with a serious expression, combed back hair cut high and tight on the sides and wearing a communist-style black suit. State media published the first official images of Kim Jong Un, the youngest son of leader Kim Jong Il who appears destined to inherit control of the impoverished, nuclear-armed state. North Korean television broadcast video of a meeting of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party held Tuesday, including images of Kim Jong Un, who was positioned in the front row during a speech and shown standing and vigorously clapping with other delegates in the cavernous venue.

Indian court: Hindus, Muslims must share holy site

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—For 150 years, Hindus and Muslims both claimed a site that is sacred to their religions, which triggered some of the worst rioting in India's history. On Thursday, a court came up with a compromise: Split it. Both sides said they would appeal, and the muted reaction to the potentially explosive verdict generated hopes that the increasingly confident country, with its growing regional clout and skyrocketing economy, has moved beyond its divisive history. "(This) shows that we have become a mature nation," said Kamal Farooqui, a member of the Muslim Personal Law Board. In advance of the ruling, the government sent hundreds of thousands of police into the streets, arrested more than 10,000 people to keep them from inciting violence, and pushed another 100,000 to sign affidavits saying they would not cause trouble.

Myanmar courts sentence activists, monk to jail

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Courts in military-ruled Myanmar have given long prison sentences to 13 people, including a Buddhist monk, who were accused of planning bombings and other activities to disrupt upcoming elections, lawyers said Thursday. The sentencing is the first major crackdown on dissent since campaigning officially began last week for the Nov. 7 general elections, the first in 20 years. The ruling junta is eager to promote the polls as a key step in a return to democracy after almost four decades of military rule. However, many opposition activists are already in jail or in exile, and critics say the election rules are unfair and undemocratic. Detained Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's party, which won a landslide victory in the last elections in 1990 but was never allowed to take power by the military, has decided to boycott this year's vote.

World

Ecuador troops rescue president from rebel cops

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—Ecuadorean soldiers firing automatic weapons and concussion grenades rescued President Rafael Correa late Thursday from a hospital where he was trapped most of the day by police rebelling over a cut in benefits.

At least one security force member was wounded in the 35-minute operation, and the government said at least one person was killed and six injured in clashes earlier in the day outside the hospital between Correa's supporters and insurgent cops.

Correa

Correa, 47, told cheering supporters from the balcony of the Carondelet palace after being spirited away from the hospital at top speed in an SUV that the uprising was more than a simple police protest.

"There were lots of infiltrators, dressed as civilian and we know where they were from," he shouted. But he did not blame anyone specifically.

Correa was trapped in the hospital for more than 12 hours after being treated for a tear-gassing that nearly aphyxiated him during a confrontation with hundreds of angry police officers who also shoved him and pelted him with water.

Correa expressed thanks from the balcony to all his supporters who went to the hospital and "were ready to die to defend demoracy."

The violence began when hundreds of police angry over the new civil service law plunged this oil-exporting South American country into chaos, roughing up and tear-gassing Correa, shutting down airports and blocking highways in a nationwide strike.

At the hospital, Correa had vowed to leave either "as president or as a corpse." He also negotiated with some of the insurrectionists, but the outcome of those talks was unclear.

Death toll in southern Mexico mudslides up to 32

OAXACA, Mexico (AP)—A rain-soaked hillside crumbled and crushed an elderly couple in their home Thursday, and rescuers found more bodies buried by earlier landslides, raising the death toll from a series of slides in southern Mexico to at least 32.

In the worst disaster, a mudslide surged into a community in Chiapas state Wednesday, killing 16 people and injuring 13, while another avalanche claimed three lives in the nearby town of Angel Albino Corzo, federal officials said.

Heavy rains have beleaguered much of Mexico's south for weeks.

Another landslide Thursday morning in the town of Villa Hidalgo Yalalag in Oaxaca state buried an 80-year-old man and his 68-year-old wife, said Mayor Onesimo Cuevas.

He said relatives and neighbors recovered the bodies themselves after the slide, which came when a rain-drenched hillside collapsed on their home.

The couple's death came two days after a huge mudslide roared down a hill another Oaxaca town, touching off a scare that hundreds of people might have been lost. Officials later lowered the likely death toll to 11 in Santa Maria de Tlahuitoltepec.

Searchers have recovered the bodies of four family members: The pregnant wife of the chief health official, their two teenage daughters and their 5-year-old son, Oaxaca state police said in a statement Thursday.

WORLD BRIEFS

US 'surge' increases focus on S. Sudan before vote

JUBA, Sudan (AP)—The top U.S. official in Sudan labeled it the "Juba surge," linking a diplomatic push in oil-rich Southern Sudan to troop deployments in Afghanistan and Iraq. With 100 days before a scheduled independence referendum, though, the surge looks more like a trickle as Washington scrambles to find qualified personnel and to complete the paperwork to get them into this dusty, impoverished city. The Nile River town of Juba could soon become the world's newest capital city or the focal point of a renewed war. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon last week hosted President Barack Obama and other world leaders to address concerns that preparations for Southern Sudan's Jan. 9 vote on independence are lagging. Obama said the coming months may show whether the Sudanese people move "forward toward peace or slip backward into bloodshed."

Argentina gives asylum to alleged Chilean assassin

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Argentina granted asylum Thursday to a former leftist guerrilla charged in his native Chile with assassinating a senator and kidnapping a businessman, a decision sure to sour relations between the neighboring countries. Chile's government had been urging Argentina to extradite Galvarino Apablaza Guerra to face trial for the murder of right-wing Sen. Jaime Guzman and the kidnapping of businessman Christian Edwards del Rio. But an official in the Argentine interior ministry said Apablaza was granted political asylum. "The decision has to be communicated first to his lawyer and the judge, but unofficially the asylum was granted," the official told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release information about the case.

Toronto anesthesiologist accused of 29 sex attacks

TORONTO (AP)—Twenty-nine women have alleged that a doctor sexually assaulted them while they were under anesthetic, and police warned Thursday there could be more victims. Anesthesiologist George Doodnaught, 61, was already facing three counts of sexual assault before police announced 26 more charges Thursday. North York General Hospital said 25 of the new charges relate to assaults alleged to have occurred at the hospital during surgical procedures. The Toronto doctor was charged in March with allegedly sexually assaulting three female patients during surgeries performed at North York General.

Death toll rises to 5 in Jamaican floods, slides

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—Searchers scoured muddy river banks and debris-clogged gullies for more victims of Tropical Storm Nicole on Thursday as the confirmed death toll in Jamaica from floods and mudslides rose to five. Rain continued to fall on the capital, Kingston, and emergency workers were trying to locate at least 14 more missing people, about half of whom were believed to have been swept away in landslides that roared through a shantytown. Officials warned the death toll was certain to rise as they rushed to confirm several reports of storm fatalities. "The numbers will be going up, I'm sure," said Richard Thompson, the deputy director-general of Jamaica's disaster management office who put the death toll at five.

Maharlika
PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS
Saturday, October 2, 2010

BI to implement new queuing at airports to foil human smuggling

By JEROME ANING
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Bureau of Immigration is set to implement a new queuing system at immigration counters in the country's airports to prevent collusion between immigration personnel and human smuggling syndicates.

Ronaldo Ledesma, officer in charge of the bureau, said the new measure, dubbed the "S-Line" queuing system, would stop the practice of passengers picking their counters.

This practice was suspected of being part of human smuggling rackets at the airport.

A test run of the S-Line was conducted at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal I departure area Wednesday night, and further tests were made on Thursday, Ledesma added.

"The initial results are very encouraging. Our immigration officers have been very cooperative in the implementation of the new system, and we hope to adopt it in all our arrival and departure counters at the soonest possible time," Ledesma said.

The BI chief earlier ordered the relief and reassignment of some immigration officers on suspicion of collusion with human trafficking syndicates.

He said the syndicates have been operating by instructing victims which immigration counter they should line up for when leaving the country.

Immigration officers in these pre-selected counters are believed to be in cahoots with the syndicates and allow the passengers to leave despite suspicious travel papers.

The old system allows multiple straight lines in the airport immigration areas corresponding to the number of immigration counters, allowing passengers to select the counters to queue for.

The BI's airport operations division has coordinated with the NAIA operator, the Manila International Airport Authority, for adequate space for the S-Line system.

The BI is intensifying its campaign against human trafficking on orders of President Benigno Aquino who earlier reiterated the Philippines' commitment to the international campaign against human trafficking.

The BI removed thousands of passengers from airlines on suspicion of being "tourist workers" and victims of human trafficking in the past two months.

Tourist workers are Filipino travelers with tourist visas but who intend to work after arriving in their destinations, making them vulnerable to abuse because of their illegitimate work status.

The Philippines has been placed by the US State Department in its Tier 2 human trafficking watch list. Should the country slide down to Tier 3, the US would withhold non-humanitarian aid of up to $250 million for the Philippines.

REPRESENTING THE CNMI
TORONTO, Canada—Kamille San Nicolas proudly represented the Northern Mariana Islands in her first beauty pageant, the Miss Philippines North America competition held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on Sept. 19, 2010. San Nicolas was the only contestant from the United States, winning in three major categories and titles: Miss Tourism Philippines North America, North America's Prettiest Filipinas, and Best in Long Gown. In addition, she was among the top three performers for the Best Talent category, performing a well-choreographed Tahitian dance, which enthralled the audience. Along with two fellow contestants, she will be receiving a monetary prize and will be traveling to the Philippines in the near future to participate in more competitions.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

POLO to offer three training courses

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

All is set for the three training courses offered by the Philippine Consulate General Office through the Philippine Overseas Labor Office.

Classes for the Fastfood Business, Tailoring, and Building and Fixing Courses will begin today at the Filipino Workers Resource Center.

Labor representative Carmelina Velasquez told *Saipan Tribune* that registration for the two other courses that will begin next month, Financial Literacy and Basic Fruit Carving, is still open to all Filipino workers on island.

Velasquez said participation on these workshops has not been affected by the decrease in the population of Filipino workers on Saipan.

"The interest is still there among Filipino workers," said Velasquez, adding that their free workshops attract the participation of those who are currently unemployed or whose work hours have been reduced by their companies.

Aside from these workshops, Velasquez said their office also conducts specific workshops upon the request of Filipino organizations on Saipan.

Velasquez said they conducted workshops about cooperatives last month but pointed out that they do not encourage workers setting up a cooperative "at this time of uncertainty."

Velasquez urged all Filipino workers to participate in their workshops to improve their skills or learn new ones.

"Improving our workers' skills helps them become competitive and enhances their self-confidence," she said.

For information, visit POLO at the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza or call 235-6992 or 235-3411.

PILCOWA members receive certificates for attending workshop

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Members of Pilipino Contract Workers Association received certificates of appreciation in a ceremony last Sept. 26 at the Kilili Beach Pavilion in Susupe for attending the Money Management Workshop.

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Services conducted the workshop in their Garapan office upon the request of PILCOWA.

The workshops were conducted in three batches last Sept. 15, 22, and 25.

Twenty-three members and nine children of PILCOWA members age 12 to 18 years old received the certificates from NMC-CREES director Ross Manglona.

Program manager Margarita Tudela and program assistant Jolene Naputi also attended last Sunday's ceremony.

PILCOWA president Ronnie Doca told *Saipan Tribune* that he has been attending the free workshops sponsored by NMC-CREES that he thought of having the members of their organization attend them as well.

"I attend these free workshops and encourage other members because these workshops are useful and valuable for us," said Doca.

Doca said the Money Management Workshop is only first of the series of workshops that he requested NMC-CREES to conduct for them.

He said they will also attend workshops like ice cream making and dressmaking.

According to Doca, one of his goals as president of the organization is to engage its members on activities that would help supplement their income as guest workers.

"These workshops give us alternative sources of income and help us develop and improve our skills," said Doca.

CBCP head denies excommunication threat vs Aquino

By JOCELYN UY
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) said Friday that the Church was not contemplating the excommunication of President Benigno Aquino III in the event the government would push a plan to make contraceptives available to poor Filipino couples.

In a statement, Bishop Nereo Odchimar of Tandag, Surigao del Sur, denied threatening Aquino with excommunication. He maintained that the initial approach to the issue was "to be in the spirit of dialogue and not of confrontation."

"While the prevailing sentiment of a number of bishops was that of dismay and frustration over the reported stance of the President regarding artificial contraceptives, excommunication has not been contemplated by the CBCP," said Odchimar.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales earlier in the day also said that the threat of the CBCP to excommunicate the President was not true.

Rosales even blamed media for the controversy, saying that they merely made up the issue, according to a report by Radyo Inquirer.

"Gawa-gawa ng media ang issue [Media has made up the issue] and it is not true that Aquino will be excommunicated," Rosales was quoted as saying on Radyo Inquirer.

Rosales was interviewed following a concelebrated mass at the Manila Cathedral, a day after Odchimar told Radio Veritas that Aquino was courting excommunication with his present position.

Benigno Aquino III, President of the Philippines, addresses the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters Friday, Sept. 24, 2010. AP

Tour guide arrested for heckling Catholic Church during service

By PHILIP TUBEZA, JEANNETTE ANDRADE
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Popular tourist guide Carlos Celdran was arrested Thursday afternoon after he held a protest in front of the main altar of the Manila Cathedral while an ecumenical service was going on.

Celdran was arrested by police after he began shouting for the Catholic Church to "stop getting involved" in politics during a ceremony marking the second anniversary of the "May They Be One Bible campaign," a joint effort by Catholics and Protestant leaders to distribute five million Bibles to five million poor Filipino families.

He also held up a placard with the word "Damaso," referring to the hated Spanish friar in Jose Rizal's novel *Noli Me Tangere*.

"Stop involving yourselves in politics!" shouted Celdran, who dressed up like Rizal and also had a top hat, inside the cavernous cathedral.

He later told reporters that he did the stunt because the bishops needed to "hear what the Filipinos are saying."

"Ninety percent of the people want the RH (reproductive health) bill," Celdran said.

But SPO2 Ernesto Andres Jr.—the desk officer of the precinct that sent the cops who arrested Celdran—claimed the tour guide later told police that he was against the reproductive health bill as crafted in Congress. He quoted him as saying '"Why are the poor being forced to buy condoms while it is okay for the rich to have as many children as they want?"

Among those present during the ceremony were Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, the Papal Nuncio Archbishop Edward Adams, and several other Catholic bishops.

Protestant bishops Fred Magbanua of the Philippine Council for Evangelical Churches and Nathaniel Lazaro, chair of the National Council of Churches of the Philippines; and Rev. Richard Pridmore, of the Union Church of Manila were also present.

"(Celdran) should not have done that. This is a private and solemn occasion. It reminded me of the (Quirino grandstand) hostage-taking," said Amy Herrera, who attended the ceremony.

She said she saw Celdran enter the Church together with a female but he did not immediately display his placard.

Herrera said Celdran came out through the door on the right side of the cathedral but then returned later and walked to the front of the main altar, with his placard in hand.

"At first I thought it was some sort of play that was part of the ceremony but he kept on shouting especially when someone took his placard. I was alarmed," Herrera said.

Another witness said that Celdran walked toward the front pew, where Cardinal Rosales and other bishops were sitting.

"He was angry. I thought he was going to bash the cardinal with the placard," the witness said.

Security men later approached Celdran and he did not resist when they led him away. He was later brought to the police community precinct in front of the Lyceum of the Philippines.

The police said they would release Celdran should the Church decide not to pursue charges against him.

Celdran would be turned over to the custody of the Manila Police District (MPD) Station 5 in Ermita, the police said.

Andres, desk officer of the MPD Intramuros police community precinct, said that the tourist guide was brought to a hospital for the routine medical check-up and would be brought to Station 5 within Thursday night.

Andres described Celdran to be in a "Charlie Chaplin-like" suit (although other witnesses said he dressed up like the national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal) and told the Philippine Daily Inquirer that when he asked the tourist guide why he had disrupted the mass at the Manila Cathedral, Celdran had said, "I am against the RH (reproductive health) bill. Why are the poor being forced to buy condoms while it is okay for the rich to have as many children as they want."

The MPD officer added that Celdran had claimed to be a cousin of television personality David Celdran.

Andres told the Philippine Daily Inquirer that the MPD officials have been asked to hold Celdran in custody at the MPD station 5 and wait for the arrival of a representative of the Manila Cathedral to reprimand and lecture the tourist guide.

He added that it would be up to the Manila Cathedral officials and the Episcopal Commission on Bible Apostolate to pursue a case of alarm and scandal against Celdran.

British woman missing since Sept. 12

MANILA, Philippines—A 56-year-old British woman has been missing since September 12, the British embassy here confirmed Thursday.

"We can confirm that we have been notified of her disappearance. We are giving her family full consular assistance," the embassy said.

According to her family, Carole Day, a mother of two and long term British expatriate living in Hong Kong, has been missing since a business trip to the Philippines on September 12.

She's 5'4", skinny, has long strawberry blond hair, and brown eyes.

Day was staying at The Corporate Inn at the corner of Ma. Orosa TM Kalaw Streets in Ermita, Manila when she disappeared.

"She was last seen by her business partner at LRI Design Studio in Makati City at 9:30 a.m. on September 12. She is a frequent traveller to the Philippines (Manila/Cebu multiple times per month) for business (furniture/interior decoration)," the notice from her family said.

"She intended to fly to Thailand (Phuket) on the 12th September from Cebu, however she did not arrive at her final destination and has been completely out of contact since that date. She was due to arrive back in HK on September 15th for a number of important events, including a close friend's funeral.

"At this time it is unclear whether she is still in Manila or if she made it to Cebu. However, according to the Filipino immigration, Carole has not left the Philippines. Therefore at present we believe she is still in the Philippines (Manila or Cebu)," it added.

Her son, Jai Day, asked that "any details, no matter how seemingly trivial, will be greatly appreciated. We would be very grateful if you could spread the news and help us do everything we can to find her." He may be reached at any time at +852 9633 3071 (Hong Kong line) and +63 916 440 2851 (Philippine line) or at email: jaicool@hotmail.com. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Day

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Over 100 Negros Occidental villages on police watch list

BACOLOD CITY, Philippines—The Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police have placed 113 villages in Negros Occidental on their watch list for the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataaan (youth council) elections on October 25. Of the 113 villages in Negros Occidental, 34 belong to Category 1 because of intense political rivalries and history of election-related violence, while 79 are under Category 2 due to reported sightings of armed rebels, according to military and police records presented during a conference with the Commission on Elections here on Wednesday. There are 600 villages in Negros Occidental, excluding the 61 in Bacolod City, which is a highly urbanized city. Among the 31 cities and municipalities of the province, Calatrava topped the list with 14 villages belonging to category 2, police records also showed. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Boy accidentally shoots self with cop-father's gun

NAGA CITY, Philippines—An eight year old boy died immediately after accidentally shooting himself with his policeman father's service firearm Wednesday afternoon, a police officer said.

The officer requested not to be identified by name and declined to provide additional details of the incident in deference to the mourning family of the boy, especially the father, who is also a local policeman. The Inquirer, however, learned that the victim was playing with the .45-caliber service pistol of his father inside their residence in Barangay (village) San Felipe at around 2 p.m. with his other siblings when he accidentally shot himself in the head with the weapon. The child sustained a gunshot wound on the temple which caused his immediate death. The parents were not at home during the incident. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

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US human trafficking ring busted—labor chief

MANILA, Philippines—A syndicate involved in large-scale human trafficking of Filipino workers to the United States has been busted, Labor and Employment Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said Thursday.

Baldoz said charges against ZDrive Inc., a Laguna-based private employment agency, and US Opportunities, an employment services company owned by a certain Mike Lombardi, are already being prepared.

The labor chief identified the 18 victims as Rodolfo Andrade, Ferdinand Antigo, Dennis Belda, Peter Cabusao, Jhoanne Davocol, Eduardo Deytiquez, Lheniehl Florida, Jimmy Hinayo, Theodore Jastillana III, Orlando Lavarnez, Enrico Edmundo Lising, Michael Angelo Maghirang, Jason Magundayao, Wilfredo Mislang, Imie Ramos, Henry Sejera, Regie Tesoro, and Roberto Verzo Jr.

"According to our investigation, the victims were illegally trafficked to the United States and were forced to endure subhuman and sub-standard conditions of work," she said.

According to the victims, after ZDrive recruited them sometime in 2009, they arrived in the U.S. in winter. In the unfamiliar environment, they were compelled to work in a forest farm under subhuman conditions and forced to sleep in trailers without water and electricity.

Worse, they were allegedly subjected to threats and intimidation, made to rake and bail pine leaves in the dead of winter, and forced to plant 1,800 pine tree seedlings a day on measly, subhuman wages equivalent to $40 a week. According to the US Department of Labor, the federal minimum wage for covered non-exempt employees is $7.25 per hour effective July 24, 2009, consistent with the Fair Labor Standards Act. Many states also enforce their minimum wage laws.

Eventually, they found the courage to escape but in good faith, got in touch with ZDrive.

However, instead of helping them, ZDrive instructed them to work in various hotels and entertainment facilities where they were paid below the minimum wage and their wages subjected to illegal deductions.

ZDrive had recruited the unsuspecting victims, who were unwittingly made to pay large fees in exchange for the promise of lucrative employment as food and beverage servers in the United States. During the processing of their applications, however, they were compelled to pay for various requirements such as medical fees, visa application fees, and placement fees. When their passports, with the approved visas, were delivered to ZDrive, allegedly through a certain Julius Bana and a certain Robert Refugio, the agency explained that the total costs they would be shouldering amount to P250,000, which are way beyond the normal legal requirements for OFWs.

Furthermore, ZDrive allegedly demanded that the victims pay the difference between the P250,000 and the expenses already incurred for visa and other fees, so that if a victim had already expended P50,000, he or she would still be required to pay the additional P200,000 to ZDrive. For those who did not have the means to raise the required fees, ZDrive allegedly referred them for loans to their partner lending companies identified as the AsiaLink Finance Corp. and the PJH Lending Corp., for which they were required corresponding collateral such as real estate properties.

Complicating the victims' sad plight, these companies reportedly resorted to criminally suing the victims-complainants for violation of Batas Pambansa 22, threatening them with foreclosure of the mortgages constituted over the real properties they offered as collaterals for the loans they incurred in exchange for non-existent jobs promised in the US.

Baldoz pledged the complete support of her office so that the victims and their families may get justice.

The syndicates were neutralized after the victims complained to the US Department of Homeland Security. The victims were assisted by US attorney Ellaine Carr, who is affiliated with Catholic charities, and is assisting the victims in the US on a pro bono basis. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

FLUVIAL PROCESSION AP PHOTO/BULLIT MARQUEZ

Devotees throw flower petals at a passing image of Our Lady of The Abandoned during a fluvial procession in commemoration of the 1st anniversary of the flooding in the country's main island of Luzon Sunday, Sept. 26, 2010 along Marikina River bank, east of Manila, Philippines. The flooding brought about by Typhoon Ketsana, local name "Ondoy," submerged Marikina and practically the whole of metropolitan Manila leaving hundreds dead and destroyed homes, agriculture and infrastructures.

China, Southeast Asian nations discussing Spratlys

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—China and Southeast Asian countries have begun discussions to hammer a stronger accord aimed at preventing territorial disputes in the South China Sea from erupting into armed conflicts, a Chinese official said Thursday.

China and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations signed a non-binding edict in 2002 calling on claimants to resolve their conflicting claims over the Spratly archipelago in the South China Sea peacefully and refrain from taking steps that could spark fighting.

China and the other claimants have wanted to forge a stronger accord that could be legally binding to better ensure peace.

Chinese Ambassador Liu Jianchao said China and the other claimants have begun discussions to forge a stronger code of conduct over the contested region.

"The document is still in the process of being negotiated," Liu told reporters.

"We are open to different formulas and initiative in preserving peace, prosperity and stability in this region," Liu said.

China, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan, Vietnam and the Philippines have been locked in a dispute for years over the Spratlys—a group of islands, reefs and atolls with rich fishing grounds.

The area is believed to have large oil and natural gas reserves and straddles busy sea lanes that are a crucial conduit for oil and other resources fueling China's fast-expanding economy and those of other Asian nations.

Beijing reacted with fury after U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told an ASEAN regional security forum in Vietnam in July that the peaceful resolution of disputes over the Spratly and Paracel island groups was in the American national interest.

Beijing said Washington was interfering in an Asian regional issue.

The United States worries the disputes could hurt access to one of the world's busiest commercial sea lanes.

President Barack Obama and ASEAN heads of state last week reiterated their support for a peaceful resolution of the disputes, freedom of navigation and respect for international law in the South China Sea.

Travel ban could cost Filipinos their Afghan jobs

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government, which bans citizens from traveling to or working in Afghanistan, said Friday it would review the security situation in the war-torn country after Filipino workers already there pleaded with the government to lift the restriction.

Although the travel ban is likely to remain in place to prevent more people from going to Afghanistan, the review raises the possibility that thousands of Filipinos already there will be allowed to stay. Manila offered such a hybrid solution for Filipinos in Iraq.

An estimated 2,500 to 4,000 Filipinos work in Afghanistan despite their government's 2005 ban, most of them employed in military bases by U.S. contractors, according to the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs. A Filipino workers' group there says they number as many as 5,000.

U.S. military authorities in Afghanistan last month ordered contractors there to send home any workers who are in violation of their home country's rules.

The Department of Foreign Affairs has now recommended that President Benigno Aquino III convene a high-level committee to assess the security situation in Afghanistan and the implications of the U.S. Central Command order on Filipinos already in the country.

Filipino workers in Afghanistan have pleaded with Aquino to lift the deployment ban, saying they stand to lose jobs they took fully aware of the risks involved.

The workers said in a letter to Aquino earlier this week that their employers have stringent security arrangements for their staff and written assurance that such measures are in place should be enough.

When the U.S. previously issued a similar order for contractors in Iraq, the Philippines allowed its nationals to remain in that country until their contracts ended but refused to let more people travel there.

Nearly 10 percent of the Philippines' more than 90 million people work abroad, sending back billions of dollars that prop up the economy.

HK-like autonomy for MILF mulled

By MAILA AGER
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—How about creating a substate like Florida and Hong Kong for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front?

Informal and formal information reaching the government was that the MILF, instead of pushing for an independent state, is now keen on having a Florida-type relation to the federal system of the United States or similar to the special administrative region of Hong Kong, government chief negotiator Marvic Leonen told a Senate hearing on Thursday.

Leonen made this revelation when asked by Senator Teofisto Guingona III about the reported proposal of the MILF to turn itself into a substate.

And the chief negotiator considered this proposal as a "breakthrough" in the government's efforts to forge peace with the Moro rebels.

"The messages we're getting from the MILF both formally through their statements of their officials and informally by reports of the media are different" said Leonen.

"So lately, there has been talk about a substate similar to Florida's relation to the federal government in the US. We have also heard from them, from one of their propaganda officers, that it may be similar to the special administrative region of Hong Kong in relation to China. And of course others are saying maybe it's similar to the Malaysian concept of federalism," he said.

Until the proposal was formally presented on the table, however, Leonen said, "We are simply assuming that they have stated it and our response was we want to wait until there's actually something on the table for us to react upon."

"But certainly we welcome the fact that they have dropped their claims of independence," he said.

"We have to recognize that they are asking for a substate and to us it is sort of a breakthrough that they are now dropping all claims of independence and that I think the frame that they have presented through the media and therefore telegraphed to us," he added.

In the same hearing, Leonen expressed his opinion against another proposal, which is to divide the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), saying it could affect the peace efforts in the region.

"May I put it again this way, anything that the Senate and the House does will of course affect the peace process but of course, all of us are here in this together and some may have different ideas as to how we would approach the problem," he said.

"But let me just say that dividing the ARMM further, from my own personal perspective, might not be a good idea at least at this point. Maybe it's more important that we look at the ARMM, strengthen it now, and allow us to substantially negotiate with full formal and informal consultation with the current leaders of both the Senate and the House of Representatives," he added.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

'Complete creative freedom' in TV5 shows

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Willie Revillame has been given "complete creative freedom" as host and co-producer of the game show "Willing Willie," TV5 Creative and Entertainment Production head Percival M. Intalan told *Inquirer* on Monday.

TV5, through chair Manuel V. Pangilinan, recently signed a co-production deal with Revillame's Wil Production Inc. "Willing Willie" is scheduled to premiere third week of October in a slot that pits it directly with the evening news programs of ABS-CBN ("TV Patrol") and GMA 7 ("24 Oras"). Also in the works, said Intalan, is "Born to be a Star," a talent show with Revillame as host.

"Willie is the best choice for these shows," said Roberto Barreiro, TV5 executive vice president and chief operating offier. "We believe in handling creative people like him in a way that's comfortable for all." Revillame hosted the top-rating ABS-CBN game show "Wowowee" before it went off the air in August.

Will Revillame be allowed to engage in "casual advertising" as he did in "Wowowee?"

Barreiro said, "We struck a a co-prod deal with Willie, different from from his deal with ABS-CBN." He did not elaborate.

Beefing up news

Barreiro said the network is also beefing up its news department "in a major way." He explained: "We recently bought 45 cameras and we're buying more vehicles. We also bought a news automation system. Everything will soon be fully-digital. We're hiring more reporters and fine-tuning operations so we can improve news gathering and presentation by leaps and bounds." A new studio in Mandaluyong City will soon be opened, he added.

The Broadway Centrum studios in Quezon City will be home to three TV5 shows—"PO5," "Star Factor" and "Face to Face," Intalan reported.

Intalan commented on "Face to Face," a show hosted by Amy Perez and patterned after the US tabloid talk program "The Jerry Springer Show," where quarreling neighbors confront one another. The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board recently called the network's attention after viewers complained of violence on the show.

"In a meeting with the board, we explained that it was inevitable to run into incidents, given the nature of the program," Intalan related. "Now we make sure every episode ends in a resolution."

Perez was a perfect pick for "Face to Face," said Intalan. "Other networks reportedly wanted to create rival shows but their big challenge was finding the right host."

Intalan also had nothing but praise for Ryan Agoncillo, host of the talent search program "Talentadong Pinoy." He said, "He's not an exclusive talent but he's kept his word like a real gentleman. He promised to stay with 'Talentado.' ABS-CBN gave him 'Pieta' and then 'Fear Factor.' We simply worked around his schedule."

TV5 hopes to build its own stable of talents through the talent search "Star Factor," said Intalan. (Actor-director Audie Gemora is head of the talent management division).

Meanwhile, Sinemabuhay, the network's movie arm, is producing "Rosario," an entry to the 2010 Metro Manila Film Festival in December. Albert Martinez directs.

Also coming soon is an international TV channel. Meanwhile, an FM station, Radyo5 92.3, starts broadcasting today.

RUSHES SPECIAL

Kris: Can't win 'em all

MANILA, Philippines—Amid rumors that the fledgling ABS-CBN show "Pilipinas Win na Win" would soon be axed, co-host Kris Aquino swiftly jumped ship. She told the *Inquirer* tabloid Bandera on Monday that she tried her best, but that it was time to move on.

Poor Kris had to steer the ship after Robin Padilla and Mariel Rodriguez bolted, apparently on account of their whirlwind romance.

"You can't win 'em all," Kris lamented. We're guessing she meant the show.

Her farewell appearance is tomorrow, she said, but over the same weekend she is set to say hello to three new endorsement deals.

Going mental

Still on Kris: ABS-CBN News reported that her lawyers had filed an amended petition, citing a new reason to annul her marriage to James Yap: "Mutual psychological incapacity."

The report said the couple "could no longer continue their relationship as husband and wife because of their mental state." The petition noted that the two "had personality disorders since their youth."

Good karma

Veteran entertainer Rico J. Puno will be among the new hosts of "Pilipinas Win na Win" starting Oct. 2. This is sweet vindication for talent manager Norma Japitana.

Norma J figured in the news last July after talent Cesar Montano's purported "abandonment." Now she has secured a major, major project for Rico J, while Cesar continues to master father roles in GMA 7 shows.

Must be true what they say, that karma is like 7-11, the convenience store. It operates 24-7, even on weekends.

Big winner

Meanwhile, Viva top honcho Vic del Rosario seems to be the current big winner in the raging network war.

Although his film company has been faltering of late, Viva has talents in the major networks: Willie Revillame on TV5; Rachelle Ann Go and Mark Bautista on GMA 7; and Sarah Geronimo on ABS-CBN.

If Rico J's hosting gig on "Win na Win" becomes regular, Del Rosario's company has scored yet another coup. Viva produced Rico J and company's "Hitmakers" concert series. "Win's" other new hosts are the concert's co-stars: Rey Valera, Marco Sison and Nonoy Zuñiga. Pokwang and Valerie are staying. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Brewing tension nipped in the bud

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Before it escalates into a full-blown word war, the brewing tension between Nadia Montenegro and Alex Gonzaga was nipped in the bud.

It started at the "PO5" set last Sunday where bystanders overheard Alex saying something unpleasant about Nadia's daughter Yka. This did not sit too well with Nadj, so she texted Alex to reprimand her and forwarded the text to the higher-ups of TV5.

Alex was quick to apologize and she called Nadia, pronto. She appreciated Alex's show of humility so now everything is forgiven and forgotten.

Alex is playful by nature. What she said in jest may have been taken in a different light. As for Nadj, it's the mother in her that prompted her to react that way. All's well that ends well.

Editor's cut

Too bad the fun banter that Mommy Eva Cariño Padilla, Ruffa Gutierrez and I had in "Paparazzi" last Sunday got edited out. Ruffa and I had a good laugh when Mommy Eva turned to us for confirmation every time there was a personal question about Binoe.

"Di ba alam n'yo rin yun?" The climax was when she was describing how malambing Binoe was. "Pag papasok siya sa room ko at nakahiga ako, sa paa n'ya ako hinahalikan. Sigurado ginawa din nya sa inyo yun 'no, Ruffa and Dolly?"

It was so heartwarming to see the feisty Padilla matriarch let her hair down.

New couple

It's confirmed! Julia Clarete and Illac Diaz are now a couple. May they love happily ever after!

She's back

Gloria Diaz is all agog for "Beauty Queen," her new show on GMA 7. After her "Cebu controversy," Glori is back in winning form.

Apple of 'Glee'

Did you know that Charice was pinaglihi sa apple? Now she's the apple of "Glee" viewers worldwide. Hopefully, her strained relationship with her dad will turn gleeful soon so the smell of success becomes sweeter for her.

PDI visits 'Glee' set

By RUBEN V. NEPALES
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LOS ANGELES—Just how successful is "Glee"?

Last Tuesday morning, we were in the brand-new theater set built specifically for the hit show on Soundstage 16 at the Paramount Studios lot. As we entered to interview the main cast, it looked like any typical back lot structure. But after emerging from a wooden ramp, we were suddenly inside a theater, complete with a stage, orchestra pit, lights and rows of seats.

"We don't have to go to Long Beach anymore," said Lea Michele, referring to the city where they used to shoot scenes on an actual campus. Lea, who was not filming this morning, was one of the first among the cast to walk in.

Thanks to its phenomenal success, "Glee" now has two and a half soundstages, one of which houses this theater set built to match the auditorium in Long Beach. Like proud new homeowners, the actress who plays Rachel Berry and the rest of the cast and staff welcomed us to their choir arena, saying that we were the first from the outside world to step into this set where they shot the much-awaited "Rocky Horror Picture Show" tribute episode earlier.

Favorite label

Lea told us that for exterior shots, they now shoot at a nearby school. As Lea said, with a smile, that they no longer have to commute, our wife Janet noticed that the actress' short dress looked familiar. "The label is Burlapp," Lea replied when asked who she was wearing, adding that it is one of her favorite labels.

Chris Colfer goes all out with a grand number, "Le Jazz Hot" from "Victor/Victoria."

Burlapp just happens to be a line by Alan del Rosario, a Los Angeles-based Filipino-American designer whose awards include California's "Designer of the Year" and was one of the finalists in the first Oscars Designer Challenge. Alan's Burlapp dresses are sold in top stores and boutiques in the United States.

When we told Lea that in our recent interview with "American Idiot" director Michael Mayer in New York, he proudly said that he cast her in "Spring Awakening" when she was only 14 years old, she felt glad. She excitedly said, "My boyfriend (Theo Stockman) is on 'American Idiot!' "

Ryan Murphy, "Glee's" co-creator/producer/writer/director (whew!), happily related things discovered by coproducer Ian Brennan—that the show is inspiring students to take part in music programs, learn to play instruments and sing, join choirs and theater groups. Ryan, who also directed Julia Roberts' "Eat Pray Love," announced that they will hold an auction in which winning bidders will have their names inscribed on the seats in this theater, with proceeds going to arts programs in California and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Ryan then presented a mini show, introducing Matthew Morrison and teasing him about their similar black and white gingham shirts. Mr. Schue, backed by a pianist, was coolness personified in his rendition of "On the Street Where You Live." Amber Riley electrified the house with her stirring version of "Bridge Over Troubled Water." Lea sang the title song from "Funny Girl" with quiet confidence.

Choreographed number

The curtains closed and then opened with the sight of Chris Colfer and 10 dancers (which included Harry Shum Jr., who plays Mike Chang), in top hats and full costumes. In a fully choreographed number, Chris sang "Le Jazz Hot" from "Victor/Victoria," a grand finale to the short show. This piece will be in a duet-themed episode airing the first week of November.

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

'Demolition job'

There ought to be a law against politicians and public officials trotting out the term "demolition job" every time accusations of wrongdoing are raised against them.

The latest to employ this hackneyed, now meaningless, phrase is Interior Undersecretary Rico E. Puno, in response to the charge by retired Archbishop Oscar Cruz that he received P8 million in jueteng money every month. "It is evident that the people who will be affected by our efforts to fight the illegal numbers game have launched a demolition job against me," Puno said in a prepared statement at the Senate.

Puno assumes that invoking the term sufficiently explains why he now finds himself in the hot seat. It does not. Whining about a "demolition job" doesn't begin to explain, clarify or invalidate the questions raised by the allegations. It merely suggests that, instead of presenting facts and explaining to the public, Puno would rather sidestep the charges and obscure the issue by painting himself as a victim and impugning the motives of his accusers.

If he were the first to do this, the tactic might still prove persuasive. But Puno is but the latest in a tediously long line of public officials whose first instinct when faced with questions of accountability is to cry "demolition job." (Following this feckless script, another name on Cruz's list of jueteng beneficiaries, retired Philippine National Police Director General Jesus Verzosa, also had his lawyer protest his innocence by—what else?—mouthing the exact same phrase.)

To his credit, Puno followed up his moldy phraseology with a gesture of a more refreshing kind. He would tender his courtesy resignation to his good friend and boss, President Aquino, as soon as the latter came back from his US trip, he said. Refreshing, because offers to quit from government service, so common among public officials mired in controversy in other countries, have become one of the rarest things hereabouts.

Still, Puno could have done one better by offering to resign irrevocably. That way, he'd spare his boss the burden of having to make a very public decision on his fate. As it is, a rather sneaky quality informs Puno's offer of a "courtesy" resignation. From all accounts, he is one of the closest confidants of the President, a man who prizes loyalty in the people around him above many other virtues. By hedging his bets and leaving the question of his employment to his good friend, Puno appears, in fact, to be counting on the President not to let him go.

The "jueteng king" allegation is a major embarrassment for Puno. While the charge remains unproven, it has become a serious distraction not only to Puno's effective discharge of his duties, but, more ominously, to Mr. Aquino's own promise of a more honest, transparent form of governance. He won the presidency on a ringing call to stamp out corruption in government. Retaining a confidant in one of the most sensitive and graft-prone government offices, while the man labors under a cloud of suspicion, could only subvert the President's credibility.

Puno may be innocent of all the charges, but sticking by him on an issue that cuts to the heart of the Aquino presidency's political capital is very counterproductive. Let Puno prove his innocence, but not in the same office—and without the same powers—that has given many people reason to think otherwise.

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Aquino's bold gamble

A showdown between the Philippine State and the Catholic Church over birth control flared up after President Aquino said in San Francisco last Monday that the government would give assistance to Filipino couples needing contraceptives to curb the number of their children.

In his talk to the Filipino community in the US during his first overseas travel, President Aquino drew fire from the Catholic hierarchy, when he said: "I think the government is obligated to inform everybody of their responsibilities. At the end of the day, government might provide assistance to those who are without means if they want to employ a particular method. But after saying that, I will not embark on a situation that forces couples to go one way or another."

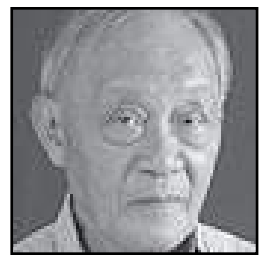
This statement was like waving a red cape to a bull, and minions of the Catholic Church immediately took this as a declaration of war on the birth control issue.

The statement was made in reference to the key provision of the Reproductive Health Bill pending in Congress. The bill calls for public information on family planning methods, and is strongly opposed by the Church hierarchy. The Church opposes artificial methods of family planning, such as the use of contraceptives and condoms. It favors the natural method, such as rhythm and abstinence.

The President's statement provoked an instant reaction from Fr. Melvin Castro, executive director of the Episcopal Commission on Family and Life. Mr. Aquino's stand came as a disappointment to and was particularly galling to the Church groups because he departed sharply from the so-called "pro-life" position of his mother, the pious late President Corazon Aquino.

Castro linked the President's position to the US grant of a $434 million financial assistance to the Philippines during his US visit.

In a statement that appeared to antagonize public opinion and further alienate even middle-class opinion from the Church's stand on family planning, Castro, speaking without evidence, accused the administration of selling out to the donors of the grant obtained by the President. "It's just a small account compared to the moral values we are going to lose," Castro said. "Apparently for that measly sum of money in the name of fighting poverty, here we are again, selling out the Filipino soul. It is sad."



Analysis

By AMANDO DORONILA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Castro was speaking from the level of the soul, which the poor who have many mouths to feed, children to cloth and send to school, cannot identify with. His argument has no resonance with the poor and does not reflect the reality on the ground about the consequences to the poor of oversize families.

The widening rift between the Philippine State and Church over birth control has put them on a collision course as Congress closes ranks behind the President on birth control policy and over the Reproductive Health Bill. Leaders of Church-supported lay organizations have threatened to block the passage of the bill with street protests, their own version of People Power. But such threats by the Church support groups do not intimidate congressional leaders who are affronted by these threats.

Church groups acting as People Power may be exaggerating their clout and influence to kill the birth control legislation. The Church is actually facing a hardening position of the government, in both executive and legislative departments, to have an activist role in making available to the public, especially the poor, the means of curbing the galloping birth rate.

Taking a cue from the President's statements, Speaker Feliciano Belmonte served notice that he is prepared to face the wrath of the Catholic Church by making sure that the bill on reproductive health is discussed extensively and voted on by members of Congress.

The members of Congress resent being browbeaten by Church organizations on the issue. Opponents of the bill have threatened to campaign against congressmen who favored the bill.

In the face of such threats, Belmonte is defiant. He said he would like to see the bill reach third reading and voted on by members, unlike past Congresses which were so intimidated by retaliation of the Church during election campaigns that the bill didn't go beyond the stage of plenary debates.

Belmonte sees a change in congressional sentiment, believing that support for the bill is snowballing in Congress, after the President had expressed his views on providing access to the poor so that they would have wider options to limit the number of their children. With this perceived sentiment, Belmonte is emboldened to push for the bill and has asked the President to certify it as an urgent measure.

"I think it's okay for us to request him to certify that," Belmonte said. "At any rate he's already bitten the bullet on it."

When Mr. Aquino made his statements in San Francisco, he took a bold gamble, knowing he would antagonize the Catholic Church. Having made that gamble, the President now exerts considerable influence over congressmen to support his controversial position on reproductive health legislation. He has indeed hurled a challenge for a test of strength with the Church. By taking on the President, the Church similarly faces the risk of its threats being shown up as hollow noise.

The public regulation of poisoned lungs

On the issue of tobacco consumption, I do not pretend to scholarly distance or neutrality. I am an outright partisan. I grew up with asthma. Although I haven't had a bad attack in a long while, I savor the joy of inhaling a lungful of pure, clean air. When it comes to the issue of poisoned lungs, I have passion for a very good reason.

But in order to attack the position of tobacco advocates, first we must fully appreciate their strengths. Borrowing from Sun Tzu, know the enemy and respect his stance.

Filipinos might find this strange, but tobacco advocacy draws its strength from the core of liberalism's respect for the individual. In the words of Thomas Jefferson, "Men [and women—I must add] are created equal [and] are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." Accordingly, you are free to live your life as happily or as miserably, as safely or as dangerously, as you please. You are free to poison your own lungs.

That is why when Massachusetts first adopted a mandatory seat belt law, it was struck down as unconstitutional. Each man is free to risk his own life, and the state can enter the picture (through "police power") only when such activities impinge on the public interest. There is no public interest in protecting you from your own vices. You get your kicks from bungee jumping? How about skim boarding? Yeah, risk bashing your head or twisting your spine—but for that adrenalin rush, it's worth it. In my case, I love roller-coasters, but each time the coaster inches up toward the topmost rail, I ask myself why on earth I do these silly things—and then the coaster plunges down the abyss, my brain stops working, and later I realize that's exactly why! Once in a while, I want to stop pondering the mysteries of life—even at the risk of cutting it short.

For the mandatory seat belt law, the public interest appears only at two moments. The first is if, in endangering yourself, you also endanger others. The "human projectile" argument, philosophers mockingly say. The state can't save you from cracking your skull, but the moment you even as much as splatter your blood on someone's white T-shirt, man, you have crossed the line. As regards smoking, the public interest is limited to the regulation of second-hand smoke. Passive smoking is even more lethal. The smoker is not free to poison the lungs of his seatmates without their consent. That is within the scope of public regulation. Hence, the ban on smoking in public places.

Passion For Reason

By RAUL PANGALANGAN
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The second "public" moment is a bit more difficult to apply in our country. In wealthier states, medical care is a public charge, either through socialized health, or through private insurance programs, both of which actuarialize the cost of getting sick and so that it is spread across-the-board to all the contributors to the welfare or insurance fund. In that context, no smoker can say that it's none of our business. It is everybody's business because later in life, when he develops heart ailments, lung cancer, emphysema, etc., everybody will subsidize that cost.

In the Philippines, we don't have a complete system of public health care, and the typical trip to the hospital entails a lot of out-of-pocket spending. That doesn't trump the public character of smoking, however. It merely makes it invisible—because the true cost is absorbed by family or friends. In other words, the cost is spread just the same to others, who pay the price not necessarily by forking out cash. That price is paid either by children who forgo school, a spouse who takes a second job, or an elderly parent who prematurely depletes his pension.

That is why the hottest debate today in tobacco regulation focuses on graphic or pictorial warnings on cigarette boxes, rather than the merely textual admonition: "Cigarette smoking may be dangerous to your health." That deterrent is addressed to the free choice of the smoker. It already concedes that the state is actually hostage to the smoker's choice, and that is why the state addresses its plea to him as decision-maker. So is it right for the state to insist on graphic warnings?

The best argument against this is that Pinoys typically don't buy cigarettes in boxes. They buy it tingi, by the stick, and tobacco sellers have cleverly repackaged the sticks in smaller packets made of transparent cellophane.

The best argument in favor of graphic warnings is cultural. Pinoys need gross photos showing gangrenous gums or cancer-eaten jaws. It's like those street signs. We can ignore them as rules: "Slow Down," "Max Speed 65 kph" or even the unidiomatic appeal to self-interest "Accident-prone area." We listen more to moral pleas: "The life you save may be your own," or "Innocent children crossing." Of course the most graphic of all is not even merely pictorial. Beside railroad crossings, on an elevated platform, they sometimes display an actual mangled car, crushed windshield and all. Pinoy daredevils need to be shown the devil's handiwork.

But danger alone does not justify state regulation. If the risk of death or disease justifies state regulation, then maybe the law should also ban chicharon bulaklak, crispy pata, sisig and lechon (man, I salivate just writing this). Anti-tobacco activists say tobacco is the only legal consumer product that is lethal when used exactly as the manufacturer intends. So why are all those high-octane cholesterol delights legal? What's the difference?

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

CATTLE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP
Participants of the Mariana Grazing and Livestock Management Academy Workshop pose for a group photo during the second day of workshop at rancher Ernest Torres' farm. The academy is aimed at building local agricultural capacity and educating farmers and ranchers about increasing the economic viability of their products and has been made possible by a grant from the US Department of Agriculture.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

University of Hawaii State Extension Specialist for Pasture and Livestock Management Mark Thorne talks to participants of the Mariana Grazing and Livestock Management Academy Workshop during its field activity last Friday.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

ASSISTIVE TECH FAIR
Elena Sutton of the Trankilu Alternative Financing Program answers questions from participants of the 2010 Assistive Technology Fair at the Taga Room of Aqua Resort.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

WAITING FOR A BUDGET
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
House and Senate lawmakers wait at the lobby of the Legislature for the conference committee to start meeting at the House chamber to discuss the budget for fiscal year 2010 on Wednesday.

FIRST BIRTHDAY
Luiji Jose Tabamo celebrates his first birthday at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy birthday to father and son Rizal and Dennis Morales, who celebrated the 50th and 25t birthdays respectively last Sunday, Sept. 19, 2010, at their residence in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. May the good Lord bless both of you and gives you more birthdays to come. Greetings coming from your family and friends.

Belated happy birthday to Allen James, who celebrated his second birthday on Oct. 1, 2010. May you have many more birthdays to come. God bless. We love you! Love, Mama Wilma, family, and friends.

TEAM BUILDING
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Casino Cafe manager Mary Hazel Garcia, fourth from left, of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, is flanked by Casino Cafe & Roulette Bar staff during their team building and team bonding party held on Sept. 30, 2010, at JC Cafe-Tinian.

YoungStyle

Concussions: Youth football begins prevention work

By JAIME ARON
AP SPORTS WRITER

DALLAS (AP)—Youth football leagues are responding to warnings about the dangers of hard hits by offering new videos, coaching exams and other lessons about preventing and recognizing concussions—even though organizers believe their level of the sport is as safe as football gets.

There are an estimated 3 million kids ages 6 to 14 playing tackle football in the United States and longtime league administrators say the majority of players aren't big enough and don't hit hard enough to cause serious damage.

"It's really surprising how few (concussions) we've had," said Carolyn Stewart, a coach, board member or commissioner for nearly 20 years in the Dallas-area Spring Valley Athletic Association's football leagues. "I know of more from skateboards or falling off playground equipment."

Still, at a time when the pros down to high school teams are adopting new rules about concussions, and Congress is holding hearings about the risk of permanent brain damage from poorly treated head injuries, youth football organizers realize it only makes sense to play it safe. Nobody wants to be the one who ignored the warnings.

USA Football, the sport's national governing body on the youth and amateur levels, has created a 12-minute video about concussions and made it part of a coaching certification exam. The organization also is pushing the catchphrase "when in doubt, keep them out," and has just hit TV, radio and the Internet with a campaign called "Put pride aside for player safety," which aims to erase the notion of someone merely having his bell rung, so he should shake it off and get back in there.

USA Football's reach is limited, however. It's a budding group, hoping its work on head injuries will help it gain authority—as opposed to the NFL, NCAA and National Federation of State High School Associations, which already have the power to implement changes.

Ten states have passed laws requiring a doctor's approval for youth athletes suspected of having a concussion to return to play, and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has urged governors of the other states to join them. Last week, Congress heard testimony on the Protecting Student Athletes from Concussions Act, which would set standards for concussion safety and management in schools.

AP

Carly Kalafus, left, Ben Spremulli, center, and Duran Visek perform on Paper Jamz guitars, Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2010, in New York.

"You've got to be tough to play football, but no one has a tough brain," said Dr. Stanley A. Herring, a member of USA Football's wellness committee who has testified many times before state and federal lawmakers.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates there are 3.8 million sports- and recreation-related concussions per year, among all ages. A 2007 CDC report estimated there are 135,000 emergency room visits per year for traumatic brain injuries among people ages 5 to 18, the majority coming from recreational sports.

Youth football organizers say their sport barely contributes to that total.

"I can probably count on one hand the number (of concussions) I've seen or that have been reported to us over the last several years," said Jim Louro, in his third season as safety officer for the Jersey Shore Pop Warner league, one of the nation's largest with about 12,000 players on 260 teams across a 90-mile region.

Louro pointed to age-weight restrictions that ensure kids are all roughly the same size. While weight ranges vary among leagues, it's typical for kids on the higher end to wear a sticker or an X on their helmet signifying they can only be linemen; the very heaviest are restricted to offensive line.

The Las Cruces (N.M.) Bantam Weight Sports Association has those rules, and Darin Spence felt the league was safe enough for his son, Drake. Spence even teased that the fifth- and sixth-graders weren't hitting, they were "belly bumping."

Then Drake, a 70-pound quarterback, ran a sweep and was clobbered by a player weighing at least 100 pounds. He came away with a concussion and a dent above an earhole on his helmet.

Spence, the women's basketball coach at New Mexico State, had seen enough concussions to be cautious. He forced Drake to miss two weeks.

"If they whine, you've just got to be good at explaining you are doing what's best for them," Spence said.

A basic step toward preventing concussions is teaching kids proper tackling technique.

"We always tell them, `You cannot hit with your head down,'" said Jeff Mabry, defensive coordinator for a team of 11- and 12-year-olds in the Franklin (Tenn.) Cowboys program that's featured in country star Kenny Chesney's "Boys of Fall" video.

Another basic element is equipment—making sure it's sound and worn correctly.

Even though Stewart's Dallas-area league gives players equipment she considers very safe, she's studied so much about concussions that this season she took extra precautions for her grandsons, who are old enough to play for school teams. She bought them high-tech helmets costing $190 and $250.

"People heard what I was doing and wanted them, too," she said. "I probably ordered 15 or 16."

Some leagues don't even provide equipment, said Sam Mutz, Pop Warner's national football commissioner. He's heard of kids using hand-me-down helmets, or ones bought off Craigslist.

For leagues that do provide equipment, the tab adds up quickly: $21 to recondition a helmet and around $70 for a reliable new model, Mutz said.

It's also important for coaches to make sure kids helmets are snug enough to leave a mark across the forehead and chin straps are buckled. Otherwise, they protect about as well as a seat belt wrapped around a door handle.

"Something like 25 to 30 percent of equipment doesn't fit properly," said Scott Hallenbeck, executive director of USA Football. "I sit through presentations from equipment experts and I'm shocked at how many coaches say, `Wow, I didn't realize how to do that.'"

USA Football started in 2002, a product of the NFL and NFL Players Association wanting to put an umbrella group over the fragmented world of youth football. Pop Warner is the biggest, most well-known organization, yet it covers maybe 10 percent of all leagues. Up to 85 percent are independent.

USA Football doesn't run leagues. It offers tools to help others run their leagues, such as certifying coaches and hosting clinics.

Hallenbeck began delving into concussion awareness with the CDC and the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) in April 2009. He testified before Congress in January, and, in February, USA Football and ACSM co-hosted a concussion summit attended by national federations of other sports, including soccer and lacrosse.

"We talked about how we could boil this complex issue down to bite-sized pieces that (coaches, parents and kids) can consume, and how we could get that message out there," Hallenbeck said.

The group's updated coaching exam requires correct answers to 68 of 85 questions based on the concussion video. More than 30,000 flag and tackle coaches have passed this version.

However, the organization estimates there are more than 415,000 coaches. That means roughly 93 percent haven't taken it.

With so much attention on this dangerous aspect of football, Hallenbeck expected youth players and their parents to be scared away this season. He was bracing for a drop of up to 2 percent—roughly 60,000 kids. But neither he nor Mutz from Pop Warner have seen a significant dip.

Dr. Herring hopes concussion treatment becomes accepted the way other safety measures have been in the past, such as drinking water going from a sign of weakness to being encouraged starting the night before a game or practice.

He notes that today's kids are being taught the signs and symptoms of a concussion, and a healthy dose of fear. They're encouraged to speak up if they or a teammate might have sustained one.

"No one used to wear seat belts or bicycle helmets until there was a culture change for public safety," Herring said. "We need to get there with concussions."

Another step occurred in the wee hours of Thursday, when the House of Representatives voted to set federal guidelines on managing concussions among student athletes.

High-tech, low-price toys top toy list

NEW YORK (AP)—This year's hot holiday toys are high-tech—and low-price.

From tiny remote-control cars from Mattel to nearly paper-thin electronic guitars and drums from WowWee Toys called Paper Jamz, technology is infused in many of this year's projected hot toys. But that doesn't mean the return of $100 price tag, which seems to have been for the most part banished since the recession.

Many techie toys are wallet-friendly at under $30.

Jim Silver, an analyst at Time to Play Magazine, which offers an influential list of hot toys each year, says toy prices overall have come down, but technology has gotten better. The highest-priced toy on the list is $69.99.

"This year's toys are about great play tied in with value," said Jim Silver. "Not necessarily the price point."

A case in point: Paper Jamz, thin electronic instruments that offer three modes of play, including freestyle. Silver said the toy's $24.99 price point is impressive.

"It's unbelievable value, a ton of toy for $20," he said.

Silver said he and his team conduct research and analyst point-of-sale retail trends to develop their annual "Most Wanted" list, which was released Tuesday. Other tech-heavy toys that made the list:

AP

Carly Kalafus, left, Ben Spremulli, center, and Duran Visek perform on Paper Jamz guitars, Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2010, in New York.

■ Spin Master's Air Hogs Moto Frenzy, $24.99 4-inch remote-control motocross racing bikes.

■ Mattel Inc.'s Hot Wheels remote control Stealth Rides, $24.99 remote control cars that are about the size of a deck of cards.

■ Mattel Inc.'s Loopz game for $29.99 that uses motion detection technology as the basis for memory games.

■ Hasbro Inc.'s Scrabble Flash, a $29.99 electronic game with five cubes with digital screens on them that click together to form words.

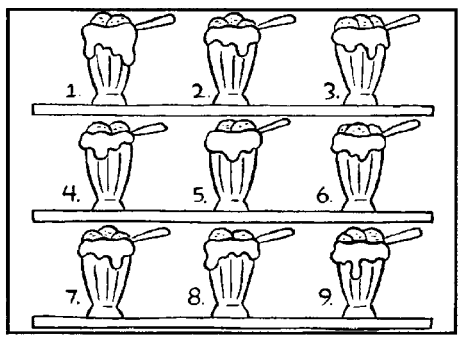
■ VTech's V.Reader, a $59.99 electronic-book reader for kids that works with VTech software.

■ LeapFrog's Leapster Explorer $69.99, an electronic device with games, e-books, a video recorder and other features.

Toys have been fairly resilient during the recession, and retailers are banking that toy sales will be strong. Toys R Us, for example, is opening up 600 temporary stores for the season and hiring 45,000 seasonal staffers. Other stores such as Sears are expanding their toy aisles.

Silver said if the stock market remains steady, he expects toy sales to rise 1 percent to 2 percent during the season compared with last year.

"The average price point of the toys has come down, but units will be up, so overall dollars should be up," he said.



CAN YOU "SCOOP" the other players and pick out the two sundaes that look exactly alike?

Answers: Sundaes 2 and 7.

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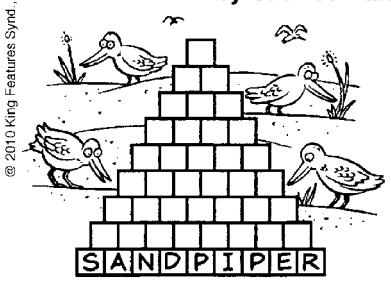
Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



THE PYRAMID OF WORD POWER!

You have three minutes to unlock the secrets of Word Power! Starting with the given word SANDPIPER, at the bottom of our pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters at each level spell out a new word. The following helpful hints are in ascending order.

1. A wading bird (given).
2. Smarter or more chic.
3. To give notice to; inform.
4. Hot beverage drinker.
5. Found in Scotland.
6. A great place to fish.
7. Anger; wrath.
8. In reference to.
9. Kind of vitamin.

Answers: 1. Sandpiper. 2. Snappier. 3. Apprise. 4. Sipper. 5. Piper. 6. Pier. 7. Ire. 8. Re. 9. E.

SEE IF YOU CAN make this math expression correct by adding seven plus signs and one multiplication sign between the numbers 1 through 9.

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 = 100

Answer: 9 x 8 + 7 + 6 + 5 + 4 + 3 + 2 + 1 = 100

DON'T BLOW YOUR TOP ON THIS ONE! At the right is a Word Square grid. Can you find the four five-letter words that match the definitions below? All words used must read the same both across and down.

1. Found on hats.
2. A type of number.
3. A mental picture.
4. Molten volcanic rock (given).
5. To move in a stealthy manner.

1	2	3	4 M	5
2			A	
3			G	
4 M	A	G	M	A
5			A	

Answers: 1. Brims. 2. Roman. 3. Image. 4. Magma. 5. Sneak.

Illustrated by David Coulson

The cats that couldn't shoot straight

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I read Linda's letter ("Cat's Aim Is Off the Mark"), and we also had the same problem. I bought a large plastic tote that was "above the aim" and used that in place of the lid by setting it up sideways and sliding the litter box into it. Problem solved!—Sharon L., Kissimmee, Fla.

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: We used a small doggie litter box to address this problem with an older cat at my workplace. We also placed pee pads underneath and against the wall just in case her aim was way off.—Ann in Rochester, N.Y.

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I had this problem with "Gabriel," our 8-year-old Maine Coon. After observing him, I realized that as a senior cat, he couldn't squat to pee as well as he used to and so he would overshoot the box. I finally made Gabriel a "custom" litter box that solved the issue permanently. I bought a large Rubbermaid storage container and simply cut a doorway into the side of it for him. With the container's almost 18-inch walls, there simply is no overshooting or spraying over the top. You have to use a box cutter or carpet knife to cut out the opening (be very careful not to slip and cut yourself). Both Gabriel and I are happy campers! —Brett N., Atlanta

DEAR READERS: Thanks for writing, all of you! I've definitely had a lot of responses, suggesting that even though a cat missing the litter box is usually a minor issue, it's very, very common. Again, if you're concerned about a cat's spraying over the edge of the box, bring it to the vet for a checkup, just to rule out anything physically wrong.

■ ■ ■

Send your pet questions and tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet advice and resources at www.pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was American author and futurist Alvin Toffler who made the following sage observation: "Profits, like sausages, are esteemed most by those who know least about what goes into them."

■ In honor of October being National Pizza month, here are a few statistics: Approximately 3 billion pizzas are sold every year in the United States. Seventeen percent of all the restaurants in the country are pizzerias. If you're like 93 percent of Americans, you eat at least one pizza every month. Pepperoni is the most popular topping, followed by sausage, mushrooms, onions and olives. And a Gallup poll found that kids between the ages of 3 and 11 would choose pizza over any other food for lunch or dinner.

■ Are you a dipsomaniac? The root of the word is from the Greek "dipso," meaning "thirst"—and we're all familiar with the "mania" part. "Dipsomaniac" is just a fancy name for a drunk.

■ You may be surprised to learn that 43 percent of 6- to 9-year-old girls use lip gloss. Of course, if you're a parent of a young girl, you may not be surprised at all.

■ A newly married couple sued the upscale resort in Chile where they spent their honeymoon when a swim in the pool turned the bride's waist-length blond hair green.

■ The oldest known skis were found, perhaps unsurprisingly, in Scandinavia. The experts say the skis were made about 4,000 years ago.

■ If you live in the state of Minnesota, you might want to keep in mind that it's against the law to sleep with no clothes on.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Man is least himself when he talks in his own person. Give him a mask, and he will tell you the truth."—Oscar Wilde

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MAGIC MAZE ● SILENT LAST LETTERS

I A X V S P N K I F C A X V S
Q O L J H E C A X V T R P N L
J H G R E N D E Z V O U S E F
D B Y R M G X N L V T R P M O
M K I U A G D V E U D B Z Y W
X W T U T V E E S B D R Q H O
O U S I O N I L L I M E G R D
A N L J O I G O A W R U H F A
D C A C Y X W P S M O B L C H
V T S W O D A E M H B N E P S
S R P O B M U H T N L K K D J

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Debris	Knowledge	Rendezvous	Shadow
Envelope	Lamb	Rhyme	Though
Gravios	Meadow	Schedule	Thumb
Illinois	Plumb	Scone	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	x		–		21
+		÷		–	
	–		x		8
÷		x		x	
	+		+		15
2		21		4	

2 3 4 4 5 6 7 8 9

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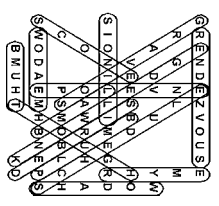
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



SILENT LAST LETTERS

GO FIGURE ANSWER

5	x	6	–	9	21
+	4	÷	3	–	8
÷	x	4	+	7	+
2	–	8	x	2	–
4	+	7	+	4	15
2	21	–	4	x	4

Tasty stuffed vegetable boats

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

We've devoured farm-fresh fruits and vegetables from A-Z these past months, but it seems like we've been stuck on the letter "Z" for quite some time. "Z" as in zucchini. Fat ones, skinny ones, green ones and lots of cheap ones.

For health-conscious parents, it's a challenge to get vitamin-rich zucchini and other veggies that are so abundant right now into the picky eaters in the family. Here's a strategy that is bound to please their palettes. Let your kids help prepare "vegetable boats" filled with the taste of the food they love: pizza!

This yummy combination of Italian sausage, tomato sauce and cheese, when scooped into the halves and hollows of squash and peppers to resemble boats, will glide onto your kids plates and into their tummies for a healthy fall meal.

STUFFED VEGETABLE BOATS

16 ounces mild or spicy Italian sausage
1/2 medium onion, chopped
2 tablespoons chopped green or red pepper
1 cup favorite prepared tomato-based pasta sauce
2 cups grated mozzarella cheese
4 medium zucchini squash halved lengthwise (or substitute yellow squash)
1 large green or red pepper
Shredded fresh carrot and parsley for garnish (optional)

1. Cook the sausage in a medium frying pan until crumbled and lightly browned. Add the onion and chopped pepper. Continue to cook one minute until onions and pepper are soft. Add the sauce and 1 cup of the grated cheese. Stir until heated through. Transfer into a bowl and set aside to cool slightly.

2. Let your child scoop out the insides of the squash halves with a melon baller or a small ice-cream scoop to form a cavity. They'll enjoy digging around and removing the seeds. Then make some "pepper pockets" by coring a pepper and cutting it into quarters, then in half again.

3. Let children spoon the sausage mixture into the cavities of the squash halves and into the pepper pockets. Set them on a cookie sheet or baking dish.

4. Bake in a 350 F oven covered loosely with foil for about 30 minutes. Remove foil and top with remaining mozzarella. Return to oven uncovered for an additional 10 minutes until vegetables are tender.

5. Serve with garnishes, if you wish. Or, add thin carrot sticks for oars for the little boats. Serve with garlic sticks and a fruit salad on the side. Makes 4-6 servings.

Extra Tips:

■ Trim off a strip of squash from the curved side of the squash halves to keep "boats" upright.

■ Onions are nothing to cry about if you leave the root end intact while cutting up the rest of the onion.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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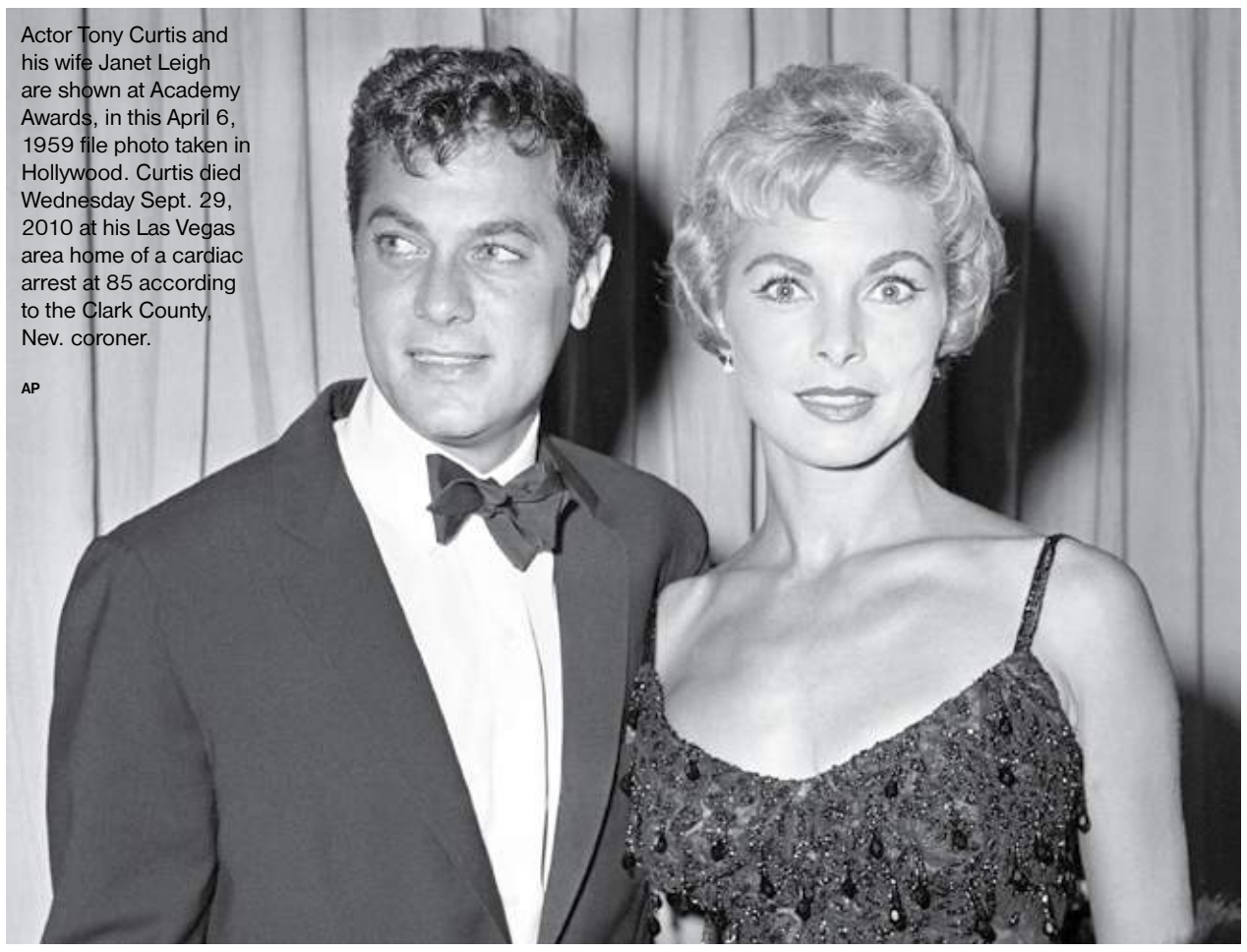
Life & Style

Defiance, resilience marked career of Tony Curtis

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER



Actor Tony Curtis and his wife Janet Leigh are shown at Academy Awards, in this April 6, 1959 file photo taken in Hollywood. Curtis died Wednesday Sept. 29, 2010 at his Las Vegas area home of a cardiac arrest at 85 according to the Clark County, Nev. coroner.

AP

From dressing in drag to posing nude for his 80th birthday, Tony Curtis truly was a defiant one.

He overcame early typecasting as a lightweight pretty boy to become a serious actor in such films as "Sweet Smell of Success," "Spartacus" and "The Defiant Ones," the latter earning him an Academy Award nomination.

He resisted obsolescence, continually reshaping himself and taking lesser roles to find steady work in a business that prizes youth. He subdued alcohol and drug addictions, lived through six marriages and five divorces, and found peace with a new art as a painter.

Curtis, whose wildly undefinable cast of characters ranged from a Roman slave leading the rebellious cry of "I'm Spartacus" to a jazz age musician wooing Marilyn Monroe while disguised as a woman in "Some Like It Hot," died Wednesday night.

The 85-year-old actor suffered cardiac arrest at his home in Henderson, Nev., near Las Vegas, the coroner said Thursday.

"My father leaves behind a legacy of great performances in movies and in his paintings and assemblages," Jamie Lee Curtis—his daughter with first wife Janet Leigh, co-star of "Psycho"—said in a statement. "He leaves behind children and their families who loved him and respected him and a wife and in-laws who were devoted to him. He also leaves behind fans all over the world."

Starting his career in the late 1940s and early 1950s with bit parts as a juvenile delinquent or in such forgettable movies as the talking-mule comedy "Francis," Curtis rose to stardom as a swashbuckling heartthrob, mixing in somewhat heftier work such as the boxing drama "Flesh and Fury" and the title role in the film biography "Houdini."

Hindered early on by a Bronx accent that drew laughs in Westerns and other period adventures, Curtis smoothed out his rough edges and silenced detractors with 1957's "Sweet Smell of Success," in which he played a sleazy press agent who becomes the fawning pawn of a ruthless newspaper columnist (Burt Lancaster).

"Curtis grew up into an actor and gave the best performance of his career," critic Pauline Kael wrote in her book "Kiss Kiss Bang Bang."

Yet it was sheer stardom, not critical acclaim, that drove Curtis, said his sixth wife, Jill Curtis.

"All Tony ever wanted to be was a movie star. He didn't want to be the most dramatic actor," Jill Curtis said. "He wanted to be a movie star, ever since he was a little kid."

A year after "Sweet Smell of Success," Curtis was nominated for a best-actor Oscar in "The Defiant Ones" as a white escaped prisoner forced to set aside his racism to work with the black inmate (Sidney Poitier) to whom he is handcuffed.

"He's one of those actors who in the '50s was a beautiful, charismatic leading man, who became sort of iconic as a sex symbol. Not somebody who you originally thought had a lot of depth. He was just charming and funny and yet he revealed himself to be quite complex and gave some great performances," said actor and director Tony Goldwyn, son of film producer Samuel Goldwyn Jr.

In 1959, Curtis teamed with Monroe and Jack Lemmon for a screwball landmark, Billy Wilder's "Some Like It Hot," which ranks No. 1 on the American Film Institute's list of 100 best U.S. comedies.

Curtis and Lemmon starred as 1920s musicians who disguise themselves as women in an all-girl band to hide out from mobsters after they witness the St. Valentine's Day Massacre.

It was a masterful comic performance by Curtis, whose character pursues the band's singer (Monroe) both in drag and in another charade as a Shell Oil heir who talks like Cary Grant, with whom Curtis co-starred later that year in the Navy farce "Operation Petticoat."

In Stanley Kubrick's "Spartacus," Curtis played star Kirk Douglas' loyal follower, leading a chorus of captured slaves shouting "I'm Spartacus!" to confound Roman oppressors seeking the ringleader of a rebellion.

His other credits included "Captain Newman, M.D.," "The Vikings," "Kings Go Forth," "Sex and the Single Girl" and "The Boston Strangler." He also did a wryly self-deprecating cartoon gig, providing the voice of his prehistoric lookalike, Stony Curtis, in a television episode of "The Flintstones."

"The guy was such a sweetheart. Beautifully neurotic, in a very endearing kind of Woody Allen way," said Sam Rockwell, who co-starred with Curtis in the 1998 movie "Louis and Frank."

Curtis and Lemmon collaborated again on 1965's "The Great Race." And more than 40 years after "Some Like It Hot," Curtis co-starred in a stage version, playing the role originated by Joe E. Brown in the film as a millionaire smitten by Lemmon's female alter-ego.

To mark his 80th birthday in 2005, Curtis posed nude in Vanity Fair alongside his dogs, Josephine and Daphne, named after his and Lemmon's "Some Like It Hot" characters.

By then, his shiny-black hair had turned silver, he had long since kicked booze and drugs, and painting his Matisse-like still-lifes filled much of the creative space left as his acting career waned.

In a 2002 interview with The Associated Press, Curtis talked candidly about where his life was in his 50s, when he was relegated to television work and such movies as "The Bad News Bears Go to Japan" or the cheesy sex comedy "Some Like It Cool."

"I wasn't happy with my marriages. I wasn't happy with the films I was getting. The next thing I know, I'm using cocaine and alcohol. And the next thing I know, I'm immersed in it," Curtis said.

He checked into the Betty Ford Center and got himself clean and sober in the early 1980s, then spent time in Hawaii, where he sought solitude and painted.

Though he acted in small parts fairly regularly through the 1990s and took occasional roles over the last decade, Curtis continued to enjoy life away from Hollywood in Las Vegas, where he lived with his sixth wife, the former Jill VandenBerg, whom he married in 1998.

"Jilly and I, we don't need a lot of people around," Curtis said in the 2002 AP interview. "We get dressed for dinner, go down on the Strip, beautiful hotels. We see a show, we go dancing. During the day, I swim and I paint. I can't imagine living anywhere else anymore."

Curtis had six children from his marriages. He was estranged for a long period from daughter Jamie Lee Curtis, whose credits include "Perfect," "Halloween," "True Lies" and last week's comedy release "You Again."

He and his daughter eventually reconciled, and Curtis took great pride in her Hollywood success.

Curtis had married her mother, Janet Leigh, in 1951, when both were rising young stars. They divorced in 1963. "Tony and I had a wonderful time together. It was an exciting, glamorous period in Hollywood," Leigh, who died in 2004, once said. "A lot of great things happened—most of all, two beautiful children."

Curtis was born Bernard Schwartz in the Bronx in 1925, the son of Hungarian Jews who had emigrated to the United States after World War I. His father, Manny Schwartz, had yearned to be an actor, but work was hard to find with his heavy accent. He settled for tailoring jobs, moving the family repeatedly as he sought work.

"I was always the new kid on the block, so I got beat up by the other kids," Curtis recalled in 1959. "I had to figure a way to avoid getting my nose broken. So I became the crazy new kid on the block."

He suffered tragedy at age 12 when his younger brother was killed in a traffic accident. Finding refuge in movies, he would skip school to catch matinees starring Errol Flynn, Clark Gable, Gary Cooper and other screen idols.

After serving on a submarine during World War II, he enrolled in drama school on the G.I. Bill and was doing theater work when an agent lined up an audition with Universal, where he signed a seven-year contract starting at $100 a week at age 23.

The studio gave him a new name: Anthony Curtis, taken from his favorite novel, "Anthony Adverse," and the Anglicized name of a favorite uncle. He later shortened it to Tony Curtis.

As his big-screen star faded in the 1960s, Curtis remolded himself as a character actor and turned to television with the 1970s action series "The Persuaders," co-starring Roger Moore, and a recurring role on the crime drama "Vegas."

Curtis earned an Emmy nomination in 1980 as producer David O. Selznick in the "Gone With the Wind" chronicle "The Scarlett O'Hara War."

He also turned to writing with a 1977 novel, "Kid Cody and Julie Sparrow" and 1993's "Tony Curtis: The Autobiography."

Curtis remained vigorous following heart bypass surgery in 1994, although his health declined in recent years.

Jill Curtis said her husband had been hospitalized several times in recent weeks for lung problems she blamed on smoking 30 years ago. He recently returned home, where he died in his sleep, she said.

Longtime friend and casino executive Gene Kilroy said memorial services would be held Monday in Las Vegas, with a reception at the Luxor hotel-casino on the Las Vegas Strip.

Through his ups and downs, Curtis maintained a brash optimism.

"One thing Tony always said: 'God is great. He won't hurt us, 'cause he looks like Tony Curtis,'" said wife Jill Curtis. "I guess now he knows how he looks."

Stand-up comedian Greg Giraldo dies at 44

NEW YORK (AP)—Greg Giraldo, a stand-up comedian who specialized in rants and insult-filled roasts, has died. He was 44.

Giraldo died at the Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in New Brunswick, N.J., after being hospitalized days earlier. New Brunswick police Lt. J.T. Miller said officers found Giraldo in his room at the Hyatt New Brunswick on Saturday night.

The Home News Tribune of East Brunswick reported that Giraldo had suffered a drug overdose, citing New Brunswick police. Giraldo's managers declined to comment Thursday.

Giraldo

On Wednesday's "Daily Show," Jon Stewart paid tribute to Giraldo. Instead of showing the show's traditional final segment, "Moment of Zen," the program ran a "Moment of Greg," playing a clip of Giraldo performing.

"The comedy world lost a good man and a great comic," Stewart said. "When you were working the clubs, he was just one of those guys that you loved to run into, because he was always a font of warmth and good humor and just smart-as-hell comedy."

Born in New York, Giraldo initially pursued a career in law, earning a bachelor's degree from Columbia and a law degree from Harvard. But he abandoned that path for stand-up, toiling in comedy clubs and on television.

Dailey & Vincent win entertainer of the year

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Dailey & Vincent won entertainer of the year for the third straight time at the International Bluegrass Music Association Awards on Thursday night.

Propelled by the success of two albums, including "Vincent & Dailey Sing The Statler Brothers," the group won five awards at Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tenn., the birthplace of bluegrass.

Jamie Dailey told the crowd that before every performance he and Darrin Vincent gather their players at the front of the bus and remind them of the mission.

"A lot of people might have cancer, might be sick, might have financial trouble, marital trouble, any kind of trouble you can imagine, so we tell the guys it is our jobs to go in there for that hour and a half, hour and 45 minutes and make their troubles go away," Vincent said.

The group was the leading nominee with 10 and joins nine-time entertainer of the year winner The Del McCoury Band as the only recipients of more than two of the IBMA's top award. Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper won three awards, and The Gibson Brothers and Adam Steffey won two each.

Dailey & Vincent also won vocal group of the year for the third straight time, album of the year and graphic design for "The Statler Brothers," and recorded event of the year for "Give This Message To Your Heart."

They performed their nominated song, "Elizabeth," with its songwriter, Jimmy Flowers of The Statler Brothers. Dailey told the crowd later in the show how it was that song that started him on a path to the Ryman stage.

"I remember the first time I heard Jimmy Flowers sing 'Elizabeth' and I knew that's what I wanted to do," he said.

Russell Moore, who was nominated for six awards with his band IIIrd Tyme Out, won male vocalist for the third time in his career and the first time since 1997.

"I want to thank you for voting for me," Moore said. "Shoot, I'll even thank the ones who didn't vote for me."

AP

Jimmy Fortune, center, former member of the Statler Brothers, performs with Jamie Dailey, left, and Darrin Vincent, right, during the International Bluegrass Music Awards show on Thursday, Sept. 30, 2010, in Nashville, Tenn.

It's also been a long time for female vocalist winner Claire Lynch.

"I haven't won one of these since the 1900s," the 1997 winner joked.

Cleveland and his band kept a couple of impressive streaks rolling. Cleveland won fiddle player of the year for the eighth time, tying Stuart Duncan's record, and the fifth time in a row. And the group as a whole won instrumental group of the year for the fourth straight time. The band added a third trophy when Marshall Wilborn won bass player of the year for the second time.

The Gibson Brothers won two awards for "Ring The Bell"—song of the year and gospel recorded performance of the year.

Adam Steffey, the solo performer and mandolin player in The Dan Tyminski Band, also won two awards—instrumental recorded performance for "Durang's Hornpipe" and mandolin player of the year for the sixth time.

Other players who took home trophies included Rob Ickes, who added to his record as the most honored instrumentalist with his 12th dobro player of the year award; Kristen Scott Benson, banjo player of the year winner for the third straight time; and Josh Williams, guitar player of the year for the third consecutive year.

This year's IBMA Hall of Fame inductees were honored as well—the late John Hartford, a singer-songwriter and banjo and fiddle player, and the late Louise Scruggs, the pioneering business manager and wife of Earl Scruggs.

The show included performances by Dierks Bentley and an all-star band, who opened the show with his new song, "Fiddlin' Around." And Bentley joined Scruggs and his sons, Gary and Randy, on stage to play The Carter Family's, "You Are My Flower."

"We asked Dierks to be here because his first name is real bluegrass-y," Gary Scruggs said.

Alison Krauss, Dan Tyminski, The Whites and others saluted the 10th anniversary of the "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" soundtrack with a medley of songs that helped bring new attention to bluegrass and roots music. Krauss sang "Down To The River To Pray," The Whites played "Keep On The Sunny Side" and Tyminski sang "I Am A Man Of Constant Sorrow," the movie's show-stopper, to some of the loudest cheers of the night.

Fallon, Timberlake go viral in hip-hop clip

NEW YORK (AP)—Jimmy Fallon and Justin Timberlake are the hottest duo in hip-hop—for the moment.

They performed a medley of rap hits on "Late Night With Jimmy Fallon" Wednesday night, and the clip is becoming a viral hit.

Fallon and Timberlake started off with Sugarhill Gang's classic "Rapper's Delight" and then performed jams from artists including the Beastie Boys, the Notorious B.I.G., Jay-Z and Eminem.

Fallon, 36, said he's surprised by the success of the skit.

"We never know what's going to viral or get picked up, and this one's beyond what we thought it would do," he said Thursday in a phone interview with The Associated Press.

Though the clip looks all fun, he said, he took the time to get it right before taking the stage.

"You know I really needed to practice. You know I can't rap," said Fallon, who also performed songs by Missy Elliott, Tupac, Kanye West and Snoop Dogg. "I was in my apartment till 2 in the morning the night before doing (the) Soulja Boy (dance) and my wife was like, 'You're crazy!'"

AP

In this publicity image released by NBC, host Jimmy Fallon, left, performs with singer Justin Timberlake during "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon," Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2010 in New York.

Though Fallon needed to rehearse, he said, Timberlake was obviously a natural: "(He) knew all of his parts, all his rhythm was amazing, so much better than mine. Mine was so bad, my gosh, (I thought), 'I'm going to screw this up,'" Fallon said.

The performance was backed by the house band for the NBC show, the Grammy-winning hip-hop group The Roots. Fallon said that much of the success goes to the rap band and that the skit was a homage to today's generation.

"The thing that makes our show kind of different is that we embrace hip-hop. ... We're that generation where hip-hop is what we grew on," Fallon said.

He also said that office morale is at a high: "Everyone's so smiley and running around the office like very confident today, because everyone sees the blogs and gets the e-mails. It just puts everyone in a great mood."

Heidi Montag, Spencer Pratt divorce is dismissed

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—Court records show divorce proceedings between Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt have been dismissed.

Montag requested the action Wednesday without prejudice, meaning she could refile it later if necessary.

The reality show couple appeared on "The Hills," which filmed their relationship and wedding.

Montag filed for divorce in July, but the couple spent time recently in Costa Rica.

The dismissal was first reported Thursday by celebrity website TMZ.

AP

In this Nov. 16, 2009 file photo, Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt are shown at an appearance for their book "How To Be Famous" at Borders Books in New York.

Maintaining friendship just prolongs pain for ex-girlfriend

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Jake," dumped me two years ago. Since then, we have tried to remain friends. He texts or calls to check up on me, tells me he misses me, calls me pet names and recites lines from my favorite movies.

Although I appreciate Jake's efforts to stay friends, I'm confused because he was the one who broke off our relationship. He has said in the past that letting me go is something he will always regret, but he hasn't made an attempt to get back together.

Abby, I feel that Jake is stringing me along. I enjoy our friendship, but in my heart I'll always want more. I can't shake the feeling that he still loves me. At what point should I just give up and let go?

LEFT HANGING IN HOUSTON

DEAR LEFT HANGING: How about right now? But before you do, tell Jake that this "friendship" has prolonged the pain of your breakup, that what you feel for him isn't platonic—and you will always want more. If he does still love you, it will be his opening to declare himself. However, if he doesn't, then for your sake, cut the cord, because you won't be free to find someone else until you do.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I was married in Las Vegas six months ago in a quickie wedding so my husband could put me on his health insurance. I used my late grandmother's ring for the ceremony, assuming that "Harry" would buy one for me shortly. It still hasn't happened, and he makes it very clear he doesn't intend to. Harry claims we don't have any money. However, we are buying a house, and he constantly spends money on his hobbies.

I am starting to regret the whole package—not having a real wedding, no ring, no proposal. I am so resentful I am considering ending our marriage over it. I need to know if there's a way to fix this.

RINGLESS IN RICHMOND, TEXAS

DEAR RINGLESS: When most mature couples marry, they have gotten to know each other well enough to know if their values and priorities are similar. Apparently, you and Harry tied the knot so quickly there wasn't time for that to happen. A way to "fix this" would be through marriage counseling—provided you and Harry are willing to spend the money that way. Please suggest it.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: After my wife's funeral, many of our friends returned to the mortuary to collect the flowers they had sent. Some of them were very rude, insisting that because they had sent them, the flowers belonged to them.

This has upset our daughter, who was in charge of sending thank-you notes. Now she doesn't know who sent what because we were too distracted to look at the cards on the flowers. Is this something new, or are those people just rude?

WIDOWER IN LIVINGSTON, MONT.

DEAR WIDOWER: When flowers have been sent—whether for a birthday or for an occasion like a funeral—they are no longer the property of the sender. They belong to whomever they were sent to. What your "many friends" did was insensitive and rude.

As to what your daughter should say in her thank-you notes, I suggest a short message to those who signed the memorial book at the funeral service: "Our family thanks you for attending Mother's funeral, and for your compassion during this sad time. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated."

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

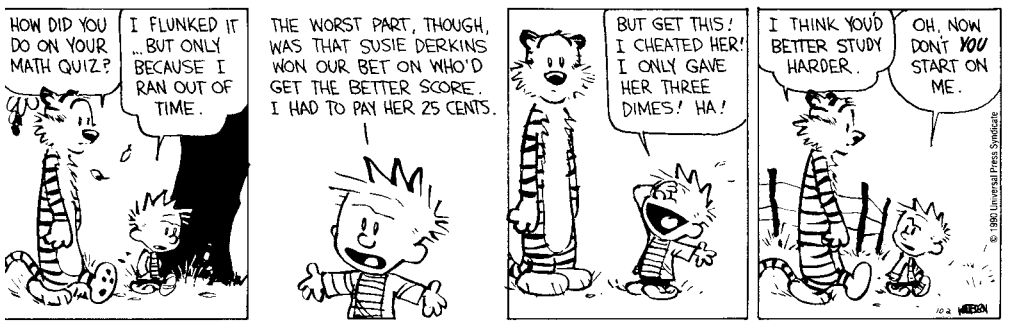
■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HOW DID YOU DO ON YOUR MATH QUIZ?
I FLUNKED IT ... BUT ONLY BECAUSE I RAN OUT OF TIME.
THE WORST PART, THOUGH, WAS THAT SUSIE DERKINS WON OUR BET ON WHO'D GET THE BETTER SCORE. I HAD TO PAY HER 25 CENTS.
BUT GET THIS! I CHEATED HER! I ONLY GAVE HER THREE DIMES! HA!
I THINK YOU'D BETTER STUDY HARDER.
OH, NOW DON'T YOU START ON ME.
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I'M GOING TO WRITE A LOVE LETTER TO LIZ
AND GREAT LOVE LETTERS ALWAYS COMPARE THE LOVED ONES TO SOMETHING. WHAT COULD THAT BE?
WELL, DUH! LASAGNA!
JIM DAVIS 10-2
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www.garfield.com
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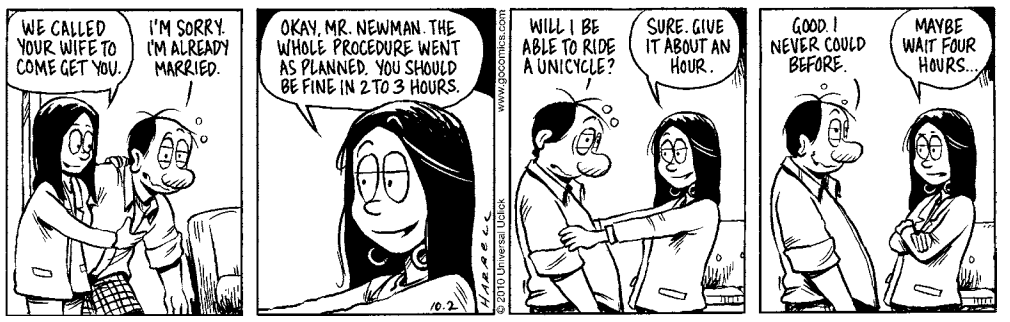
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WE CALLED YOUR WIFE TO COME GET YOU.
I'M SORRY. I'M ALREADY MARRIED.
OKAY, MR. NEWMAN. THE WHOLE PROCEDURE WENT AS PLANNED. YOU SHOULD BE FINE IN 2 TO 3 HOURS.
WILL I BE ABLE TO RIDE A UNICYCLE?
SURE. GIVE IT ABOUT AN HOUR.
GOOD! I NEVER COULD BEFORE.
MAYBE WAIT FOUR HOURS...
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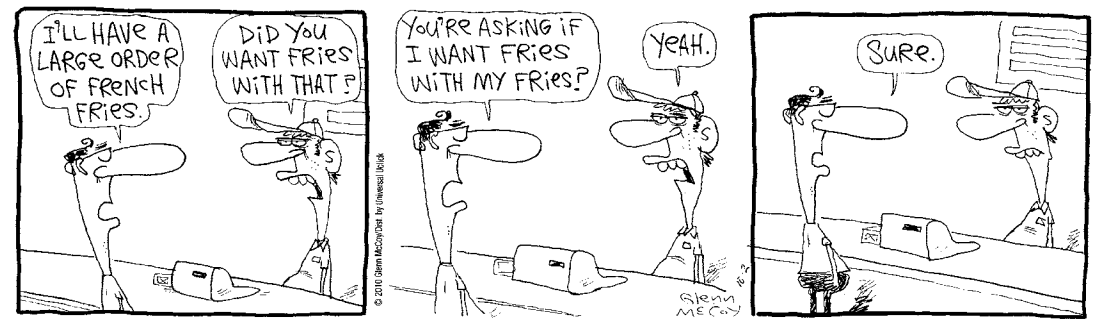
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I'LL HAVE A LARGE ORDER OF FRENCH FRIES.
DID YOU WANT FRIES WITH THAT?
YOU'RE ASKING IF I WANT FRIES WITH MY FRIES?
YEAH.
SURE.
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Volcanic output
4 Gospels' follow-up
8 One of the Three Bears
12 Long March leader
13 Melt
14 Kuwaiti commander
15 Bobby of hockey
16 Juno's counterpart
17 Faction
18 Pennsylvania town
21 Type measures
22 Give it a go
23 Aristocratic
26 Actor McBride
27 Caustic solution
30 Therefore
31 Tarzan's son
32 Sense
33 "Let me see ..."
34 CONTROL Agent 86
35 Move like Jessica Rabbit
36 Occupation, slangily
37 That woman
38 Nursery-rhyme baker
45 Desire
46 Exam format
47 Web address
48 Pronto
49 Marx or Malden
50 Ultra-modernist
51 Mid-June honorees
52 Sailors' assents
53 Obtain

DOWN
1 Uncontrollable
2 Ganges wrap
3 Prop for Harpo
4 In
5 Food Network VIPs
6 Bank bailout acronym
7 Dark of complexion
8 Unkempt
9 Writer Kingsley
10 Calf-length
11 Neighborhood
19 Some toothpastes or deodorants
20 Spoon-bender Geller
23 To the — degree
24 Resistance unit
25 Vagrant
26 Nixon son-in-law
27 Floral garland
28 Longing
29 Wapiti
31 Rocket launcher
32 Dog bane
34 Hr. fraction
35 Beach-goer's collectibles
36 Sounds from 3-Down
37 Don't be greedy
38 Campus hangout
39 — Minor
40 "Zounds!"
41 Unravel at the ends
42 Pealed
43 Genealogy chart
44 Coin aperture

Solution time: 27 mins.

K	E	G	■	C	W	T	■	R	O	P	E	S
H	A	H	■	O	A	R	■	I	D	E	A	L
A	G	A	■	B	L	U	E	B	E	R	R	Y
K	E	N	■	S	L	E	W	S	■	■	■	■
I	R	A	Q	■	E	R	E	■	B	O	I	L
■	■	■	A	C	T	■	R	U	L	E	R	S
P	A	S	T	A	■	■	F	I	R	E	D	■
E	R	R	A	N	D	■	M	O	T	■	■	■
W	E	I	R	■	A	L	E	■	Z	O	N	E
■	■	■	A	T	O	L	L	■	N	O	R	■
B	L	U	E	B	A	Y	O	U	■	T	I	N
B	E	R	L	E	■	A	N	N	■	A	S	S
C	A	N	I	S	■	L	I	D	■	P	E	T

Yesterday's answer 10-2

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			■	16				■	17			
18			19					20				
■	■	■	21			■	22			■	■	■
23	24	25			■	26			■	27	28	29
30				■	31			■	32			
33			■	34			■	35				
■	■	■	36			■	37			■	■	■
38	39	40				41				42	43	44
45				■	46				■	47		
48					49					50		
51				■	52				■	53		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kelly Ripa, 40; Lorraine Bracco, 56; Sting, 59; Donna Karan, 62

Happy Birthday: Look at any deal that may enable you to alter your status, income or position. Clear thought can help you transform something you have been struggling with in the past. Opportunity knocks but, if you don't recognize what's being offered or how you can manipulate the situation to meet your needs, you will miss out. Your numbers are 9, 12, 21, 26, 35, 37, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): It's time to cut your losses and start anew. Enjoy what life has to offer and you will meet someone of interest who will be a good fit for you professionally or personally. Don't limit what you can do. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Stop complaining or nagging. Put your trust in your ability to get things done yourself. Make the changes that will bring you contentment. Opportunity is present, so don't miss out. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take a look at what you have to work with and you will come up with a plan that allows you to incorporate your skills with what you enjoy doing. Trying something new will allow you to meet new people and explore different ways to utilize your talents. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll be drawn to someone or something from your past but, before you decide to jump back in, remember why you left the situation the first time around. Self-improvement projects will allow you time to consider what you truly want. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll be ready, willing and able to take on whatever challenge comes your way unless, of course, it has to do with the love of your life or someone looking for a fight. Don't get dragged into someone else's melodrama. Avoid the people who bring out the worst in you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Getting involved in events you enjoy or that make you feel good about who you are and what you can accomplish should be at the top of your to-do list. Love and romance look very inviting and can highlight your evening. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Develop a skill or talent you have, enhance the way you look or feel and do things that will relieve your stress. Taking on too many burdens and responsibilities can lead to a meltdown. Get help before you need it. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Your talent and ability to get ahead will be at an all-time high. Travel will lead to new opportunities and inspirational ideas. Love and romance should be on your agenda late in the day. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Sort through your personal papers if you want to stay on top of some of the problems you are currently facing. Publishing, records and legal matters may not weigh in your favor if you haven't done your homework. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll be bogged down by responsibilities.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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Someone is likely to make you answer for a mistake that was made that caused problems in your neighborhood or your family. A quick response or making a few alterations may save the day. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Spend time and money investing in yourself. Restrictions that have made your life difficult physically will be lifted. Good fortune is within reach and changes that will alter your future are falling into place. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You may need to lean on someone you trust to do a good job. Too much of anything will lead to hardship. Reorganize and recycle. Don't let anyone push you into something you don't care to do. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have a strong presence, are persistent in getting what you want and are changeable and unpredictable. You strive to maintain your values and goals.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

							2	
				3				7
		3	1		8			
		1		6		5		
	7		8	9	2		6	
		8		7		4		
			7		3	6		
9				5				
	4							

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	2	1	6	3	8	9	4	7
4	7	8	9	5	1	3	2	6
6	9	3	7	4	2	8	5	1
3	4	9	2	6	5	1	7	8
8	5	2	3	1	7	4	6	9
1	6	7	8	9	4	5	3	2
7	3	4	1	2	9	6	8	5
9	8	6	5	7	3	2	1	4
2	1	5	4	8	6	7	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/01

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FACIAL BEAUTY TIPS **Solution: 10 letters**

T	S	R	E	X	F	O	L	I	A	T	I	O	N	S
O	N	R	E	F	E	C	E	G	A	S	S	A	M	G
N	I	E	U	D	A	C	O	P	E	N	H	M	S	L
I	M	S	M	R	W	S	A	S	S	P	A	A	N	O
C	A	T	E	T	R	O	R	F	M	S	D	E	O	S
M	T	N	N	A	A	R	P	O	C	E	E	T	L	S
T	I	N	T	S	S	E	Z	A	L	G	T	S	A	L
L	V	S	L	O	R	L	R	M	E	O	A	I	S	E
A	S	E	T	F	N	A	I	T	A	C	C	E	C	T
P	E	G	U	O	R	E	T	P	N	B	P	M	R	S
P	Y	M	R	E	M	C	R	N	S	U	A	O	U	A
E	E	N	R	A	E	N	C	A	E	E	E	L	B	Ⓟ
A	N	I	S	E	R	O	P	K	R	C	S	E	M	Ⓐ
R	A	K	R	A	D	C	A	C	S	H	S	A	L	Ⓓ
F	S	S	A	L	U	M	R	O	F	Y	A	R	P	Ⓢ

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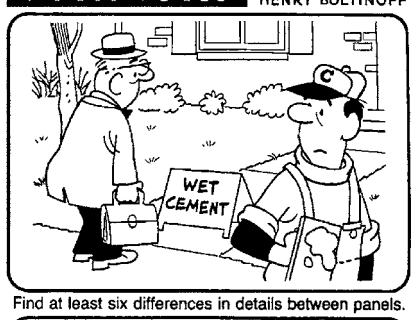
Acne, Appear, Area, Balm, Cleansers, Colors, Concealer, Cosmetics, Cream, Dark, Exfoliation, Eyes, Face, Fair, Foam, Formulas, Glaze, Gloss, Lash, Liner, Lips, Makeup, Mascara, Masks, Massage, Mist, Mole, Open, Pads, Pastels, Peels, Perfume, Pores, Powder, Rest, Rouge, Safe, Salons, Scent, Scrub, Shade, Skin, Spa, Spray, Stars, Steam, Tints, Toner, Tonic, Treatment, Vitamins

Yesterday's Answer: Black Star

The NEW Treasury 9 can be ordered by sending check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com. (contains 130 puzzles, 33 of which are the larger 20 x 20 size)

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Sign is different. 2. Hat is missing. 3. House has no decorative bricks. 4. Cap is missing letter "C." 5. Tree is gone. 6. Small shrub is missing.

Wishing Well®

3	8	2	6	3	5	7	5	7	4	2	6	4
E	A	E	C	N	P	H	E	O	S	X	H	T
5	4	7	2	4	7	3	2	3	6	3	2	6
A	E	R	E	A	I	D	R	A	E	N	C	E
7	3	4	3	5	2	8	7	5	6	2	3	7
Z	O	D	L	C	I	P	O	E	R	S	D	N
5	6	4	8	7	3	5	4	3	6	5	2	8
F	F	Y	P	S	F	U	P	E	U	L	E	L
3	4	3	7	2	8	4	8	7	5	4	5	6
U	R	D	E	M	Y	O	N	X	L	G	I	L
5	4	2	6	5	4	7	8	4	8	2	8	6
F	R	I	D	E	E	P	E	S	W	N	S	A
7	4	8	2	7	6	7	8	7	8	7	8	8
A	S	K	D	N	Y	D	I	E	L	D	L	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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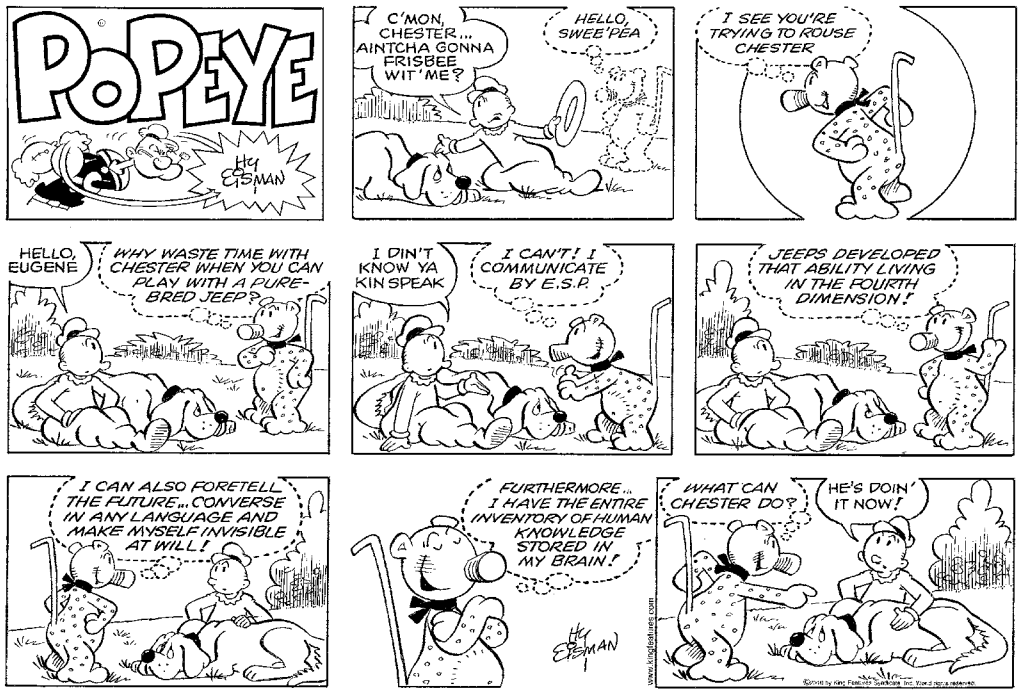

POPEYE
HY EISMAN
C'MON, CHESTER... AINTCHA GONNA FRISBEE WIT' ME?
HELLO, SWEE'PEA
I SEE YOU'RE TRYING TO ROUSE CHESTER
HELLO, EUGENE
WHY WASTE TIME WITH CHESTER WHEN YOU CAN PLAY WITH A PURE-BRED JEEP?
I DIN'T KNOW YA KIN SPEAK
I CAN'T! I COMMUNICATE BY E.S.P.
JEEPS DEVELOPED THAT ABILITY LIVING IN THE FOURTH DIMENSION!
I CAN ALSO FORETELL THE FUTURE... CONVERSE IN ANY LANGUAGE AND MAKE MYSELF INVISIBLE AT WILL!
FURTHERMORE... I HAVE THE ENTIRE INVENTORY OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE STORED IN MY BRAIN!
WHAT CAN CHESTER DO?
HE'S DOIN' IT NOW!
HY EISMAN
www.kingfeatures.com

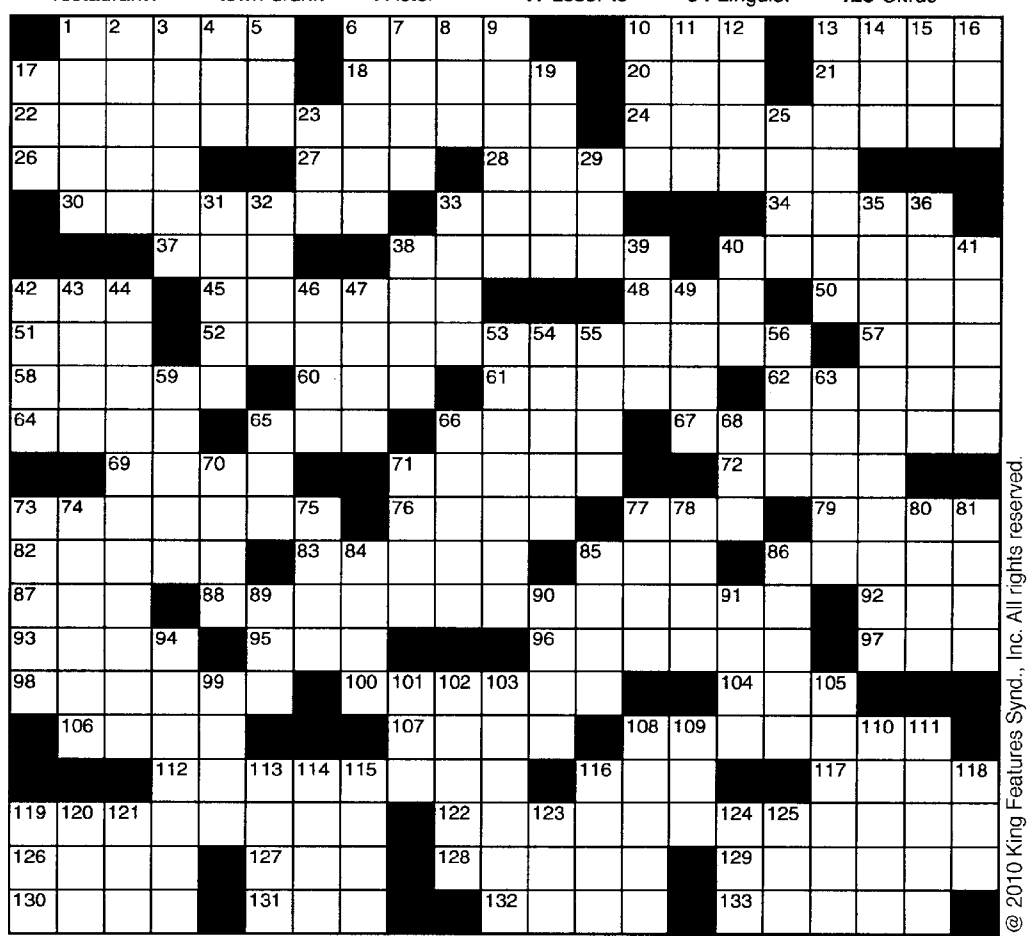
Super Crossword — FOREIGN

ACROSS

1 Conclude a deal
6 Drinks like a Dalmatian
10 Current unit
13 Bagel or bialy
17 State
18 Build
20 He'll give you a squeeze
21 Singer Adams
22 Egyptian manipulator?
24 German rock group?
26 Thames town
27 __ blond
28 Quick comeback
30 Furtiveness
33 Encounter
34 Luke's book
37 Baseball stat
38 Feudal tenant
40 "Lohengrin" role
42 "Pshaw!"
45 Wind instrument?
48 Galley feature
50 Asta's father
51 Pie __ mode
52 Indian restaurant?
57 Church bench
58 Mississippi mound
60 Help
61 Actress Rivera
62 Got up
64 Tragic monarch
65 Bar supply
66 Noggin
67 Fine
69 A bit of Bach
71 Bandleader Shaw
72 Sitarist Shankar
73 Prep school
76 Sheepish sounds
77 Seville shout
79 "Beowulf," e.g.
82 More naive
83 "__ of robins . . ."
85 Bartok or Peron
86 Islamic deity
87 Speedometer abbr.
88 Senegalese sitcom?
92 Khan opener?
93 Mayberry town drunk
95 "The Lady __ Tramp" ('37 song)
96 Maintenance workers
97 Hither's mate
98 Contemptible
100 Good luck charm
104 __ de plume
106 Film site?
107 Worn-out
108 TV's "__ Shade"
112 Seminole shoe
116 Whitney or Mintz
117 On one's __ (alert)
119 Italian actor?
122 Sensible Czech?
126 Duel tool
127 Season firewood
128 Dieter's dish
129 "__ Fideles"
130 Ward (off)
131 Evergreen tree
132 Sup in style
133 Soprano Fleming

DOWN

1 Blind parts
2 "Untouchable" Ness
3 Klemperer of "Hogan's Heroes"
4 Actor Tognazzi
5 Energy
6 Rover's restraint
7 Roguish
8 Hound or hamster
9 A great many
10 "Waterloo" group
11 Yorkshire feature
12 Gasp
13 Tosses aside
14 "Deep Space Nine" role
15 Actress Ullmann
16 Wahine's wreath
17 Master
19 Banyan and baobab
23 Scoundrel
25 Close
29 School grp.
31 Residence
32 Brindisi bread
33 Artist Franz
35 Libyan baseball maneuver?
36 Most confident
38 Nullify
39 Like some sheep
40 Prospector's prize
41 Loser to Truman
42 Cinderella's soiree
43 Nautical adverb
44 Cuban game-show figure?
46 Jai __
47 Lean
49 PDQ, politely
53 Overlay material
54 Massenet opera
55 Aachen article
56 Darling dog
59 Carve a canyon
63 "Bolero" composer
65 Jewel
66 Impetuous
68 Prior to, to Prior
70 Semester
71 Encourage a culprit
73 Iron clothes
74 Paris, to Helen
75 Tropical tubers
77 Ellipse
78 Chad or George
80 Othello's inducer
81 Detective Charlie
84 Linguist Chomsky
85 Redact
86 Torch's crime
89 __ and yang
90 Hair part
91 Composer Thomas
94 Prepared cherries
99 Morlocks' prey
101 Donkey
102 Tanker and trawler
103 "Lord Jim" author
105 Kitten gear?
108 Manage to miss
109 Compete
110 Din
111 "Beau __" ('39 film)
113 Potter's need
114 Circus sight
115 Once again
116 Richard of "Love Me Tender"
118 Sault __ Marie, MI
119 Ring counter
120 Do Little work
121 Kyoto coin
123 Actress MacGraw
124 Deface
125 Citrus



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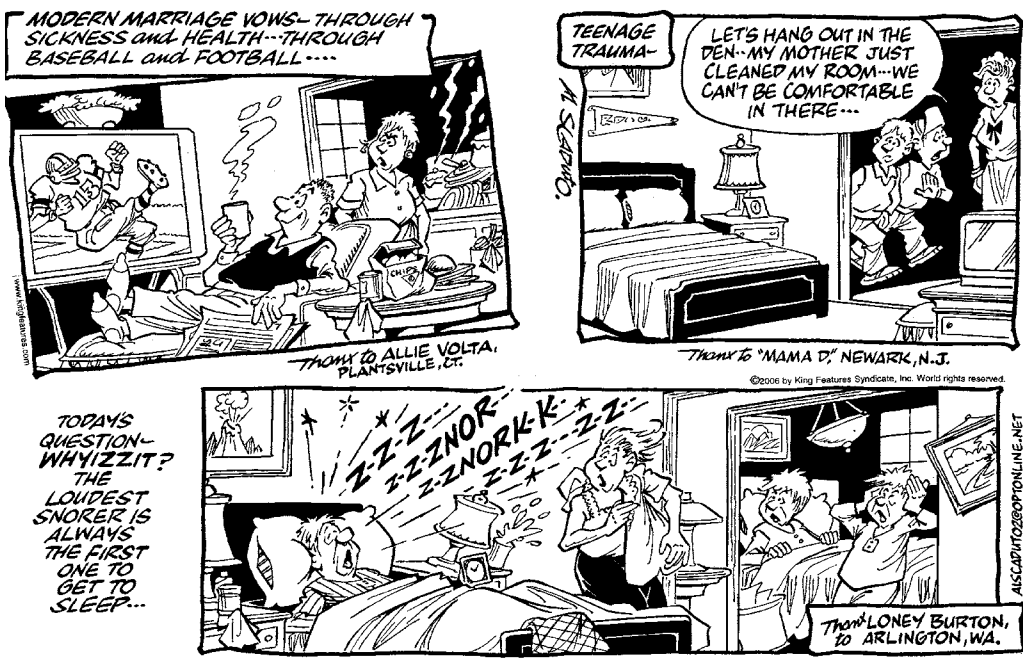
They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto


MODERN MARRIAGE VOWS— THROUGH SICKNESS and HEALTH···THROUGH BASEBALL and FOOTBALL····
Thanx to ALLIE VOLTA, PLANTSVILLE, CT.
TEENAGE TRAUMA—
LET'S HANG OUT IN THE DEN··MY MOTHER JUST CLEANED MY ROOM···WE CAN'T BE COMFORTABLE IN THERE···
Thanx to "MAMA D," NEWARK, N.J.
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TODAY'S QUESTION— WHYIZZIT? THE LOUDEST SNORER IS ALWAYS THE FIRST ONE TO GET TO SLEEP...
Z-Z-Z-Z-Z-NORK-K-Z-Z-Z-NORK-K-Z-Z-Z-Z-Z-Z
Thanx LONEY BURTON, ARLINGTON, WA.
ALSCADUTO@OPTONLINE.NET

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin prefix "juxta" mean?
2. PSYCHOLOGY: What kind of fear is represented in anthophobia?
3. CHEMISTRY: What is the atomic number of hydrogen?
4. MOVIES: For what 1983 film did Shirley MacLaine win an Academy Award for best female actress?
5. MATH: What is the Arabic equivalent of the Roman numerals XCV?
6. TELEVISION: Which newsman had the famous signoff line, "And that's the way it is"?
7. MEDICINE: What is the normal human body temperature in Celsius?
8. HISTORY: What was the name of Amelia Earhart's navigator on her final ill-fated flight?
9. MEASUREMENTS: What is the amount in a quire?
10. GEOGRAPHY: What is the only U.S. state that has only one syllable in its name?

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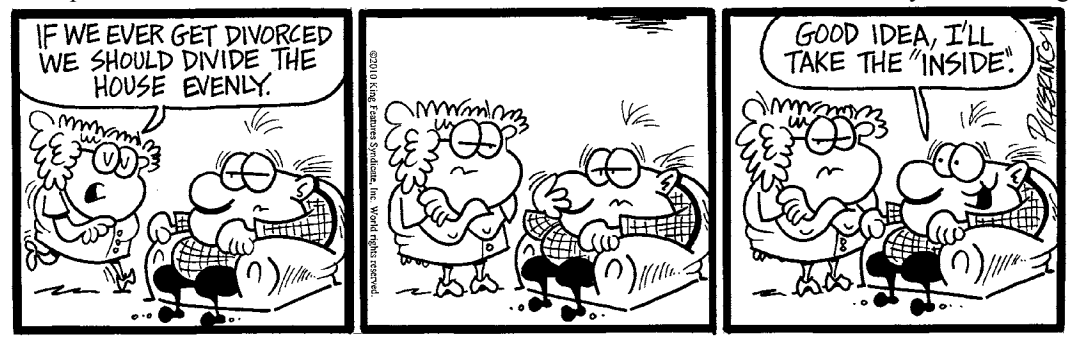
Answers

1. Alongside
2. A fear of flowers
3. 1
4. "Terms of Endearment"
5. 95
6. Walter Cronkite
7. 37 C
8. Fred Noonan
9. 25 sheets of paper
10. Maine

Saturday's Answers

The Spats — by Jeff Pickering


IF WE EVER GET DIVORCED WE SHOULD DIVIDE THE HOUSE EVENLY.
GOOD IDEA, I'LL TAKE THE "INSIDE".
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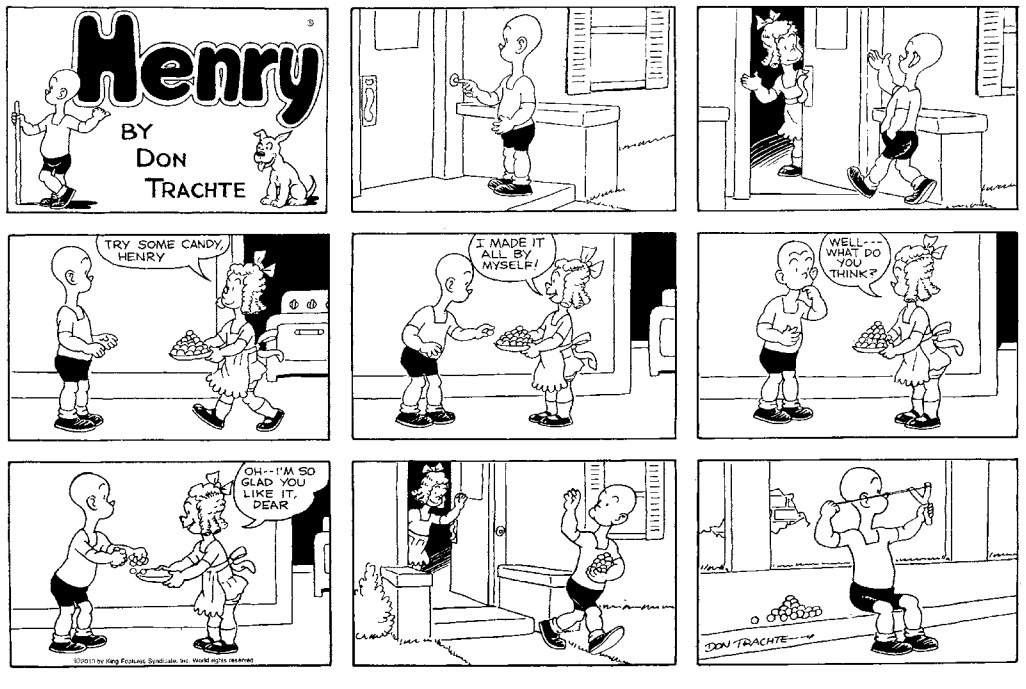

Henry
BY DON TRACHTE
TRY SOME CANDY, HENRY
I MADE IT ALL BY MYSELF!
WELL--- WHAT DO YOU THINK?
OH--I'M SO GLAD YOU LIKE IT, DEAR
DON TRACHTE

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

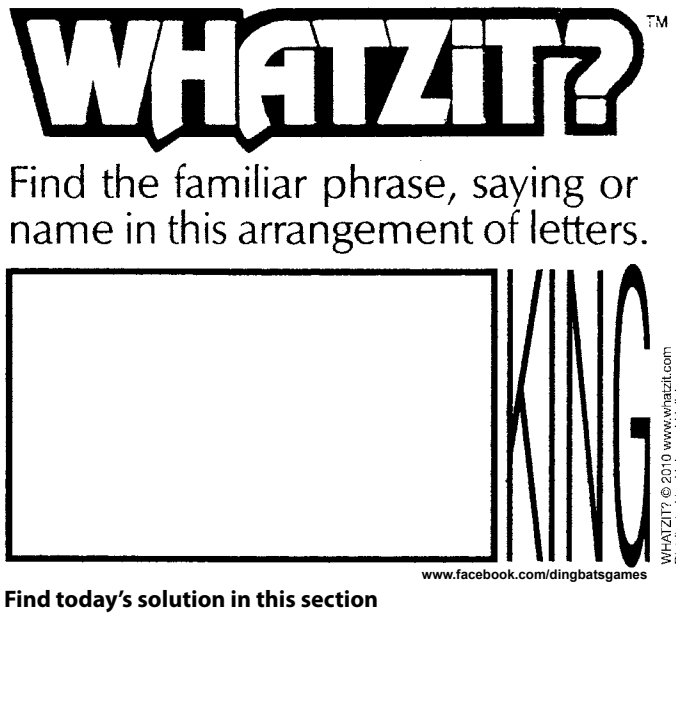
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



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Please call: 323-2101/888-3245 or email:
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Starting as low as... **$25.00** without Insurance
Call: 233-9889, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)
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Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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3 Bedroom 2 ½ Bath House in San Vicente 1,800 sq. meter yard. Price negotiable. Call 256-0280 or 989-3365

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars. Year must be 2000 & above. We pay cash! Please call 287-7676.

Giants sweep Arizona, clinch tie for NL West title

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Pablo Sandoval hit a splash shot into McCovey Cove, while Andres Torres and Buster Posey also connected as the NL West-leading San Francisco Giants beat Arizona 4-1 Thursday for a three-game sweep.

The win, coupled with San Diego's 1-0 loss to Chicago, means the Giants have clinched at least a share of the division title.

Even if the Giants are swept in this weekend's three-game series with visiting San Diego, they will finish level. The Giants' last division title and playoff berth was in 2003.

Torres' go-ahead, solo homer in the fifth inning helped rookie Madison Bumgarner (7-6) earn his first home victory in eight tries. Posey hit a two-run homer in the sixth, the rookie's seventh shot in September.

AP

San Francisco Giants' Pablo Sandoval celebrates his solo home run off Arizona Diamondbacks starting pitcher Barry Enright during the second inning of a baseball game in San Francisco, Thursday, Sept. 30, 2010.

Cubs 1, Padres 0

At San Diego, Brad Snyder hit an RBI single off Heath Bell with one out in the ninth inning to lead the Chicago over San Diego, pushing the Padres to the cusp of elimination from the playoff race.

The loss reduced San Francisco's magic number for clinching the NL West to one and idle Atlanta's magic number for clinching the NL wild card to two.

San Diego has lost 22 of 34 games since Aug. 25, when it had 6 1/2-game lead over the Giants.

Aramis Ramirez started the Cubs' ninth with a broken-bat single to right-center off Bell (6-1) and was replaced by pinch-runner Darwin Barney. Xavier Nady laid down a sacrifice bunt and Barney scored on Snyder's single to left.

San Diego had only three hits. It was the second time in the four-game series that San Diego lost 1-0.

Sean Marshall (7-5) got two outs in the eighth for the win. Carlos Marmol pitched a perfect ninth for his 37th save in 42 chances.

Reds 9, Astros 1

At Cincinnati, Drew Stubbs homered and drove in four runs to help the Reds stay in the race for home-field advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

Brandon Phillips and Jonny Gomes homered for the NL Central champions and Bronson Arroyo (17-10) pitched seven solid innings in his playoff tuneup. The Reds are two games behind San Francisco in the race to finish with the league's second-best record behind Philadelphia.

Cardinals 6, Rockies 1

At St. Louis, Chris Carpenter threw his first complete game of the season as the Cardinals beat the Colorado Rockies.

Carpenter (16-9) ended a four-game losing streak —during which he posted a 7.17 ERA—with a four-hitter.

The Rockies, who were eliminated from the postseason on Tuesday, have lost 10 of 11.

Carpenter, who threw just 100 pitches, retired the last 10 batters in making his major league-leading and career-best 35th start. He walked two and struck out four in the 29th complete game of his career.

Cole Hammel (10-9) went just three innings, allowing five runs and eight hits.

Brewers 9, Mets 2

At New York, Casey McGehee got to 100 RBIs in the ninth inning on one of several sloppy plays by the Mets and Corey Hart reached 100 RBIs two batters later as the Milwaukee Brewers beat New York.

Chris Narveson (12-9) matched a season high with nine strikeouts and Lorenzo Cain hit a two-run double after All-Star shortstop Jose Reyes dropped a routine popup, helping the Brewers win for the seventh time in nine games.

The loss ensured the Mets will finish with a second straight losing season. New York (77-82) struck out 13 times in dropping its third in a row to the Brewers.

Marlins 11, Pirates 9

At Miami, Mike Stanton homered and drove in five runs as the Marlins held off the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Pedro Alvarez hit a three-run homer off Jose Veras in the ninth. Leo Nunez came in and struck out the final two batters to record his 30th save in 38 opportunities.

Alvarez went 4 for 5 with five RBIs.

Wes Helms drove in two runs in the Marlins' four-run first inning and starter Chris Volstad (12-9) pitched six innings, allowing two runs.

Rookies Stanton, Logan Morrison, Gaby Sanchez and Ozzie Martinez accounted for 10 of the Marlins' 13 hits.

Stanton had an RBI single in the first, a three-run homer off Zach Duke (8-15) to deep center field in the fourth, and another RBI single in the sixth.

Royals 3, Rays 2

At Kansas City, Zack Greinke pitched seven sharp innings as Kansas City beat Tampa Bay, leaving the Rays and New York Yankees with a share of the AL East lead.

The Rays and Yankees, who have both clinched playoff spots, are at 94-65 going into the final weekend. Tampa Bay plays three more times at Kansas City while the Yankees have a three-game series at Boston.

If Tampa Bay and New York are level after Sunday, the Rays win the division title because they won the season series against the Yankees.

Greinke (10-4) gave up two runs and four hits while striking out nine. He had won only one of his previous seven starts.

Joakim Soria worked the ninth for his 43rd save. He has earned saves in his past 36 opportunities since his last blown save on May 6 at Texas.

Matt Garza (15-10) gave up three runs and five hits in seven innings.

Rangers 3, Angels 2

At Arlington, Vladimir Guerrero drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth for Texas and Cliff Lee pitched seven innings in his final tuneup before the playoffs.

Nelson Cruz, who had three hits, doubled to right and stole third on a pitch in the dirt with one out in the eighth. Guerrero lined a single to left off reliever Jordan Walden (0-1) to give Texas the lead.

Darren O'Day (6-2) relieved Lee and allowed a game-tying home run to Peter Bourjos.

Lee, who struck out eight without a walk, gave up four singles and an unearned run. He will start Game 1 of the AL division series Wednesday against either Tampa Bay or New York.

Neftali Feliz pitched a scoreless ninth to earn his 39th save.

Angels starter Scott Kazmir allowed two runs and six hits in 5 1-3 innings. The left-hander made his final start of the season and is 2-10 since June 24.

Blue Jays 13, Twins 2

At Minneapolis, Jose Bautista hit home runs No. 53 and 54, including a grand slam, and Toronto went deep six times.

Edwin Encarnacion hit two homers and Jose Molina and Travis Snider added long balls for the Blue Jays, who have hit 253 homers this season, the fourth-highest total in baseball history.

Bautista's second homer went to right field, his first this season that didn't go to either left or left-center.

Francisco Liriano (14-10) gave up five runs and six hits, including three of those homers, with six strikeouts in 5 1-3 innings in his final start before the playoffs. The left-hander is scheduled to start Game 1 of the ALDS on Wednesday at Target Field.

The AL Central champions have lost six of seven and missed a chance to tie the Rays and Yankees for the best record in the American League.

Bautista entered the night on an 0-for-20 skid, but had three hits and five RBIs.

Casey Janssen (5-2) pitched 1 1-3 innings of scoreless relief for the win.

White Sox 8, Red Sox 2

At Chicago, Paul Konerko hit a grand slam that wrecked Jon Lester's bid for his 20th win, and Chicago won a game delayed by a power failure.

The game was held up for 21 minutes in the sixth inning when most of the stadium lights went out. A power outage in the area was the cause.

Konerko connected for his 39th homer of the season and the ninth grand slam of his career. The fourth-inning shot off Lester (19-9) made it 6-2 and Dayan Viciedo chased the Red Sox ace with a two-run homer in the fifth.

Lester, trying to become the first Red Sox left-hander in 57 years to win 20 games, gave up eight runs and nine hits in four-plus innings in his final start of the season.

Victor Martinez homered for Boston, which has lost four of its last five.

Juan Pierre stole three bases, giving him a career-high 66, as the White Sox finished 6-1 against the Red Sox. Chicago has won seven of eight since being eliminated from the AL Central.

Athletics 8, Mariners 1

At Seattle, Oakland's Gio Gonzalez threw seven scoreless innings, giving up four hits, walking five and striking out eight.

Jeremy Hermida of the Athletics singled to lead off the fifth inning and Rajai Davis and Daric Barton both singled with two outs to load the bases before Doug Fister (6-14) balked in a run. Mark Ellis drove in one run with a single and Jack Cust added a two-run single.

Kevin Kouzmanoff singled to lead off sixth inning and Chris Carter homered to give Oakland a 6-0 lead and chase Fister.

Contador blames bad meat for positive doping test

PINTO, Spain (AP)—Alberto Contador blamed it all on a bad piece of filet mignon, and promised he would prevail in the end.

The three-time Tour de France winner said contaminated meat caused his positive doping test for a "very small concentration" of the banned substance clenbuterol. It was found in his urine sample on July 21 at the Tour, according to the International Cycling Union, the sport's governing body.

"The idea of anyone questioning my Tour victory does not worry me," the Spanish cyclist said. "I am not going to let something like this destroy everything I have done."

He was provisionally suspended after a World Anti-Doping Agency lab in Germany determined both A and B samples were positive.

The UCI said the amount of clenbuterol in Contador's sample was "400 time(s) less than what the antidoping laboratories accredited by WADA must be able to detect."

Speaking at a news conference in his hometown near Madrid, Contador said, "I think this is going to be resolved in a clear way. With the truth behind you, you can speak loud and clear, and I am confident justice will prevail."

Contador said the beef was brought across the border from Spain to France by a Spanish cycling organizer, Jose Luis Lopez Cerron, during a Tour rest day and at the request of the team's chef. Cerron said earlier Thursday on Spanish radio that he was a friend of the chef, who had complained of poor quality meat at the hotel where the team was staying.

Lopez Cerron said he bought filet mignon for the team in the Spanish border town of Irun on his way to Pau, France.

Clenbuterol is sometimes given to cows, pigs and other animals to increase their growth rate.

Contador said he and four other Astana teammates ate the beef on July 20 and that he was the only one who underwent a doping test on July 21. He ate more of the meat that day, explaining that although it wasn't normal to eat steak a day before racing, it was too good to waste.

He said he learned of the test results on Aug. 24 and met with UCI doctors two days later.

"On the 26th we talked at length about how all this had happened. The UCI itself told me to my face that it was a case of food contamination," Contador said.

The Spaniard said he decided to go public because a German television station was aware of the case, but said it would have been better for cycling's image if it could have been handled internally. He called his suspension by the UCI "a true mistake."

Contador beat Andy Schleck of Luxembourg by 39 seconds in winning his third Tour in four years.

Woods, Stricker paired for Ryder Cup start

NEWPORT, Wales (AP)—Good thing for the Americans the Ryder Cup ultimately comes down to golf shots, not style points.

U.S. captain Corey Pavin, his voice unsteady at the opening ceremony Thursday, introduced the 11 players on his squad and was about to sit down when he realized each team had 12 to a side.

He overlooked Stewart Cink, one of his captain's picks.

Then came the lineups for the opening session, with Tiger Woods and Steve Stricker in the third slot. It was the first time since 1999 that Woods was not in the first match, leading European captain Colin Montgomerie to suggest the Americans were trying to hide him.

Leading off for the Americans in fourballs is Phil Mickelson and Dustin Johnson, a big hitter whose driver broke on the range.

Asked if Europe already felt it was 1-up based on Pavin's gaffe, Montgomerie said:

"I suppose that was a mistake. He just missed the one. He read the wrong name, but that was just unfortunate. I think he was very, very good in covering his tracks. It went very well. It was a first-class show up there.

"And yes," he added, "we are 1 up."

Europe had other reasons to feel confident about winning back the Ryder Cup when the matches get under way Friday. It has not lost on its home soil since 1993, and the crowd can play such a huge role in golf's biggest bipartisan event.

It was evident on the final day of practice, when fans gave a standing ovation from the bleachers behind the greens on the back nine of Celtic Manor just at the sight of the European players approaching the green.

By Sunday, all that matters are the points on the board.

AP

U.S. team members Stewart Cink, right, Tiger Woods, center, and Zach Johnson attend the opening ceremony of the 2010 Ryder Cup golf tournament at the Celtic Manor golf course in Newport, Wales, Thursday, Sept. 30, 2010.

The Americans, who won two years ago at Valhalla to end a decade of European dominance, need only 14 points from the 28 matches to take the 17-inch gold trophy back home.

"I cannot wait," said Ian Poulter, who will join Ross Fisher in taking on the Woods-Stricker tandem. "This crowd tomorrow is going to be electric. The roar on that first tee will be sensational. I can't wait to hear it and I can't wait to get pumped for it. I can't wait to give them some feedback."

The big mystery was the weather.

Celtic Manor already is lush and soggy from rain in recent weeks, and the forecast is for more rain and blustery wind for most of the day. And while Montgomerie said he didn't try to alter the setup, it has become clear that the best strategy is to play out of the short grass.

This is one of the longest American teams in history. But the straightest?

They should find out immediately with a compelling match - Mickelson and Johnson, who play big-money games just about every week on tour, going against Lee Westwood and PGA champion Martin Kaymer, Europe's best player and its most recent major champion.

For Westwood, it will be his first competition in six weeks while he recovered from a calf injury. Playing his seventh Ryder Cup, he went to Montgomerie a few days ago and asked to be in the leadoff match.

Montgomerie had thought about U.S. Open champion Graeme McDowell and Rory McIlroy leading off.

"It was just seen that Lee should hit the first shot," Montgomerie said. "I think it's a real honor to do that, and I've had that honor twice. And it's only right that Lee Westwood at this time should have that."

McDowell and McIlroy, the duo from Northern Ireland, play in the second match against Georgia Tech alums Cink and Matt Kuchar. For now, that deprives fans of a McIlroy-Woods match of any form. McIlroy had said he would "love to face" Woods, and Woods countered with a no-nonsense "Me, too," that stirred Ryder Cup tensions.

Stricker is the 12th partner for Woods in this event - two short of the Ryder Cup record. But everyone saw this one coming. They went 4-0 at the Presidents Cup last year, the first tandem in any cup to do that in 30 years.

"Hopefully, Tiger and I can go out there and do the things that we know how to do," Stricker said. "And, hopefully, it's good enough for a win."

Montgomerie stoked speculation, however, by feigning surprise that Woods was in the middle of the lineup.

"I was expecting Tiger to go first or fourth," he said. "I think Tiger being hidden is a different move. But, as we all know, every point is important wherever it might be. It's a very difficult game, mind you, probably the two best putters on the U.S. team."

He was even more surprised to see Bubba Watson and Jeff Overton—a pair of rookies whom many consider the most likely affected by Ryder Cup nerves—in the final spot against Padraig Harrington and Luke Donald.

In doing so, Pavin sat out Jim Furyk and Hunter Mahan.

Furyk is the only American with three victories this year, including his $11.35 million payoff for winning the Tour Championship and FedEx Cup on Sunday.

"He's been counting the money, and he's been very tired," Pavin said with a laugh.

Mahan went unbeaten in all five matches at his Ryder Cup debut two years ago. Pavin said only that four players have to sit, and he planned to get all 12 a match on Friday.

"If you have any better suggestions, I'd love to hear them," he said. "I guess it's a little too late for those suggestions."

Nothing matters now.

Starting Friday, it's all about winning holes, winning matches, putting up points. The morning fourballs are to be followed by four alternate-shot matches in the afternoon.

Montgomerie made it clear how badly he wants to get his team in front quickly, putting his best two teams at the top of the lineup.

"My goal is to lead Friday evening if at all possible," he said. "It's all set up for that. That's the plan."

Carter looks to vindicate poor playoff performance

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—If Vince Carter didn't have enough incentive to redeem his poor performance in the Eastern Conference finals, the message came through loud and clear from his Orlando Magic teammates during a meeting at the start of training camp.

Simply put, they said, he must be better.

"Vince is easy at saying all of the right things, but I don't particularly care what he says," Magic president of basketball operations Otis Smith said. "I'm more interested in what he does once the games start, and his teammates told him the same thing."

Motivation shouldn't be the problem for Carter this season.

He turns 34 in January. The $18 million team option on the final year of his contract will almost certainly not be picked up next season. So if he struggles early this year, that expiring deal could be a hot commodity on the trade market for franchises looking to clear salary-cap space.

Translation: this may very well be Carter's best shot left at a championship.

"You said it like something's wrong, like my contract could be voided in the coming weeks or something," Carter said matter-of-factly when asked about his contract situation. "I just play. I'm going to let my game speak for itself."

Then Carter might want to speak up.

Otherwise, the longtime Orlando resident and native of nearby Daytona Beach will have his homecoming end shorter and sadder than he could've ever envisioned.

Carter's first season with the Magic was the worst of his career, averaging 16.6 points and 3.9 rebounds per game. Perfectly productive numbers by most NBA standards—just not for an eight-time All-Star, one of the league's highest-paid players and Orlando's only real perimeter playmaker.

"Everybody here just wants him to play the game the way he's played it throughout his career—attacking the basket," Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said. "You look around the East with all the great perimeter players: Boston has (Paul) Pierce and (Ray) Allen, Miami has (LeBron) James and (Dwyane) Wade. Atlanta has Joe Johnson.

"Vince is our guy who can create shots for himself and other people. He's still capable of doing that."

Nothing highlighted Carter's struggles more last season than the conference finals against Boston.

Carter scored just 28 points combined in the first three games of the series, the Magic went down 3-0 and were eventually eliminated in six games. Carter, who finished with an average of 13.6 points per game in the series, even saw his playing time diminish in favor of backup J.J. Redick.

Not exactly what the Magic were hoping for when they parted ways with Hedo Turkoglu after the 2008-09 season and traded for Carter, reconstructing the makeup of their starting lineup.

NBA BRIEFS

James' manager: Race played role in media coverage

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. (AP)—LeBron James' manager said he believes race played a factor in how the two-time reigning NBA MVP's decision to join the Miami Heat was covered this summer. Maverick Carter did not cite specifics when talking to CNN for a story that aired Wednesday night, other than saying race "definitely played a role in some of the stuff coming out of the media" during coverage of James' free-agent saga. It's not the first time race has been a discussion point in the aftermath of what was called "The Decision," an oft-criticized televised special that raised $3 million for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. James did not want to spend much time on the subject after Thursday's Heat practice. "I think people are looking too far into it," James said. "But at the same time, sometimes it does play a part in it. I've said what I had to say, and I'll continue to move on."

Still in Charlotte, and now Mohammed even starting

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP)—It wasn't even a year and a half ago that Nazr Mohammed was so frustrated at being buried on the bench by Bobcats coach Larry Brown that he wanted out of Charlotte. Brown replied that he tried to trade Mohammed, but no found no takers. Now after the departures of Emeka Okafor and Tyson Chandler, the 33-year-old Mohammed is not only still around, he's Brown's starting center. Mohammed smiled and shook his head this week when asked what if someone had suggested this scenario in April 2009. "I would have told you it was crazy, that I really thought something was wrong with you," he said. "I did not think I would last this long and definitely not starting. That was a rough, rough year for me mentally." Mohammed was surprised at how he was received when Brown took over as Bobcats coach because this was their second time together. Brown was in Philadelphia in 1998 when the 76ers acquired the former Kentucky big man shortly after Utah drafted him in the first round.

Pacers pick up option on Hibbert

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Indiana Pacers have picked up the team option on center Roy Hibbert's contract, meaning the former first-round pick is signed through next season. Hibbert, entering his third season with the Pacers, averaged 11.7 points, 5.7 rebounds and 1.6 blocks per game last year. Coach Jim O'Brien said earlier in the week that Hibbert had the best offseason he's ever seen. Hibbert is considered a key to the team's rebuilding effort, along with Danny Granger and newly acquired point guard Darren Collison.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-New York	94	65	.591	_
z-Tampa Bay	94	65	.591	_
Boston	87	72	.547	7
Toronto	83	76	.522	11
Baltimore	63	95	.399	30 1/2

Central Division

x-Minnesota	93	66	.585	_
Chicago	86	73	.541	7
Detroit	80	78	.506	12Ω
Cleveland	68	91	.428	25
Kansas City	66	93	.415	27

West Division

x-Texas	89	70	.560	_
Los Angeles	78	81	.491	11
Oakland	78	81	.491	11
Seattle	61	98	.384	28

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

x-Philadelphia	95	64	.597	—
Atlanta	90	69	.566	5
Florida	78	81	.491	17
Washington	68	91	.428	27

Central Division

x-Cincinnati	89	70	.560	—
St. Louis	83	76	.522	6
Milwaukee	76	83	.478	13
Houston	75	84	.472	14
Chicago	73	86	.459	16
Pittsburgh	56	103	.352	33

West Division

San Francisco	91	68	.572	—
San Diego	88	71	.553	3
Colorado	83	76	.522	8
Los Angeles	78	81	.491	13
Arizona	64	95	.403	27

x-clinched division
z-clinched playoff berth

Yesterday's Games

San Francisco 4, Arizona 1
Chicago Cubs 1, San Diego 0
Cincinnati 9, Houston 1
Milwaukee 9, N.Y. Mets 2
Florida 11, Pittsburgh 9
St. Louis 6, Colorado 1
Detroit at Baltimore, ppd., rain
Texas 3, L.A. Angels 2
Chicago White Sox 8, Boston 2
Kansas City 3, Tampa Bay 2
Toronto 13, Minnesota 2
Oakland 8, Seattle 1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wild Shooters still atop Flame Tree

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Buddies Bar & Grill's Wild Shooters and Salbahe Brothers currently sit atop the standings in their respective Saipan Electronic Dart Association divisions after the conclusion of their matches last Sept. 23.

Home team Wild Shooters destroyed Onagas!, 11-4, to keep its pole position in the Flame Tree Division.

Wild Shooter won three of four singles 301 matches before both teams won a wild cricket game. Wild Shooters then swept both partners 501 games and took three of four cricket matches for the automatic victory.

Wild Shooters and Onagas! Then won a partners baseball game apiece before the latter took the final team 1001 match. Wild Shooters' Jhun Agbuya won all six of his matches and his teammate Froilan Viray went a perfect five out of five.

With a 77-43 win-loss card, Wild Shooters hold a solid seven-game lead over Jonny's Umi Shooters (70-50) with D' Pirates Bar & Grill's IDK-2 (68-52) hanging around in third.

Weekly notables include a 160 High-In by Phil Fejeran of VFW's Dutty Gunz and a 112 High-Out by Dean Borja of the VFW Assashunz.

Other matches in the division last Sept. 23 saw IDK-2 squeeze past Giana-B, 8-7; Assashunz out-steady Umi Shooters, 9-6; and Get Sum get the better of Dutty Gunz, 9-6.

Resting Salbahe Bros still in the lead

In the Fanihi Division, idle Salbahe Bros with a 68-37 win-loss record is in first place over IT&E's Kamote's (67-53). Buddies' Boyz B (65-55), Sande's Top Shooters (64-56), and VFW No Fear (61-59) are also still in the running. Last week's notables include a 154 High-In by Kamote's Eric Pascual and a 110 High-Out by Salbahe's Jojo Guilas.

Division matches last week saw Top Shooters narrowly beat Barracudas, 8-7; Boyz B take out Sang Baggers, 9-6, and Kamote's defeat No Fear, 9-6.

Wild Shooters pose for a photo after their dominating 11-4 victory over Naked Fish's Onagas! at Buddies Bar & Grill in the Flame Tree Division of the Saipan Electronic Darts Associaiton.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CUC Power Plant electrifies in govt darts

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

CUC Power Plant was simply electric on the road at Naked Fish after wiping the floor clean of the home team Na'Gupu, 11-4, as the Bud Light Lime Inter-Government Dart League continued last Sept. 24.

CUC Power Plant started well and won three of the four singles 301 matches and both wild cricket games. Na'Gupu swept both partners Buhrma half-it, but the government league leaders charged back and swept both partners 501 games and all four cricket matches for the automatic victory. CUC Power Plant then slammed the door and took the final team 1001 game.

The win improved CUC Power Plant's win-loss record to 88-32, which is five games ahead of second-running AG's Piligro (83-37). DPW Troubleshooters (69-51) currently sit at third, but have a way to go to catch the two frontrunners.

Notables of the week include a 160 High-In by Public Health Oh Yeah!'s Ed Diaz and a 120 High-Out by AG Piligro's Layson John.

DPS Enforcers 9, DYS Atdit 6

At Buddies Bar & Grill, the visiting DPS Enforcers won three of four singles 301 matches for the early lead. Then both teams won a wild cricket game and a game of partners Burhma half-it before the Enforcers won three of the four cricket matches for the automatic win. DYS Atdit took the final team 1001 game.

PSS South Side 11, Oh Yeah! 4

At Gaia's, home team South Side won three of four singles 301 matches, a game of wild cricket and swept both partners Buhrma half-it. They clinched the automatic victory after sweeping both partners 501 matches. South Side went on to add a pair of cricket matches and the final team 1001 game to their total. South Side's Freddy won all five of his matches

Troubleshooters 12, NMC-PROA 3

At Wild Bill's, the home team Troubleshooters swept all four singles 301 games and both wild cricket matches to jump way out in front. Then the Troubleshooters secured the automatic victory after both teams won a game partners Buhrma half-it and a partners 501 match. DPW went on to sweep all four cricket matches and NMC-PROA took the final team 1001 game.

SHUTDOWN

From Page 28

"We can't train at the track for now. However, to stay in shape, I might go to the pathway to run and safety will be a concern," said Tanner Kenty, who was a member of the CNMI Team that competed in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau last August.

"I hope the closure will not be that long so we can all go back to our routine," Kenty added.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White, like other members of the sports community, is hopeful that closure of government-ran sports facility will only be for awhile.

"I can only hope that our elected officials will put their differences aside and show true leadership, for the benefit of the people of the Commonwealth. Outdoor sports will continue without any problems, while those who participate in indoor sports at government-managed facilities will just have to be patient," White said.

"The disruption of sports activities and leagues is a minor inconvenience compared to the hardships which people will suffer when they don't get their badly needed paychecks," he added.

The Division of Sports and Recreation posted a notice of closure in the four gates located near the main parking lot of the Oleai Sports Complex. Gates were locked, but still there were some people who managed to get inside the facility.

Just past 5pm yesterday, a group of players was seen playing frisbee at the Oleai field using the north entrance and some teenagers admitted they climbed over the fence to get in.

The Division of Sports and Recreation will not be held liable for injuries/accidents that happen while the facility is closed, read the disclaimer notice.

As a result of last yesterday's government shutdown, the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium has been closed and has stalled the current Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League season for both the U15 and U19 divisions.

Rotary caging coordinator Abner Venus said he is in the process of finding a new venue to keep the games going as scheduled.

Venus has all of the required equipment on hand to continue the season at another location and is currently looking into gaining permission to use the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

While the Ada Gym is closed it is, however, still possible to gain access to the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield as the Saipan Little League Baseball Association has done for its youth clinic this morning. ***(With reports from Walter Sutherland)***

SHUTOUTS

From Page 28

Club in the boys U14 and U18 divisions, respectively.

U18

MP United 3, Paire FC 0

MP United and Paire FC played in the second game at the Oleai Sports Complex Field and blanked Paire FC, 3-0.

Yishan Wang broke the ice for MP in the first half, while Dae Min Jeon drilled two goals in the second half to lead the team's strong debut.

MP United will play its second game today against the Independents at the CPA Field at 9am. Paire FC hopes to recover from its debut loss when it faces Matansa in the second game today ay 10:30am.

Boys U14

MP United 2, Tan Holdings 0

MP United was also victorious in the boys U14 division with its younger squad downing the Tan Holdings FC, 2-0, at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Former Golden Boot awardee Jehn Joyner scored both goals for MP United, making one each in the two 35-minute halves.

MP United will go for win No. 2 when it takes on Independents today at 2:45pm on Field 2 at Hopwood, while Matansa and Shirley's will play on Field 1 at the same time. At 4:15pm, Paire Red will battle Tan Holdings (Field 1).

Paired Red 2, Paire Black 1

In the battle of sister teams, Paire Red showed no love lost to Paire Black, nailing a 2-1 victory.

David Park and Brian Lee logged one goal apiece for Paire Red to lift their team to a close win. Paire Black drew its lone goal in the game from Joel Fruit.

Girls U14

Matansa 3, MP United 0

In the girls U14 over at the San Antonio Elementary School Field, Andrea Camacho scored the first hat-trick in the fall league to power Matansa to a 3-0 triumph over MP United.

After its debut, Matansa will be pitted next against Paire today at 3:15, still in the San Antonio pitch.

Paire 4, Tan Holdings 0

Duplicating Matansa's feat in Week 1 of the fall league was Paire, which whipped Tan Holdings FC, 4-0.

Tricia Ingram recorded two of those four goals, while Mikaela Duenas made the other two.

Meanwhile, the co-ed U6, U8, and U11 games scheduled in Week 2 will still be played at the various school fields, as these pitches are not affected by the government shutdown. The U18 matches, meanwhile, will be held at the CPA Airport Field.

Scores in the co-ed age groups are not recorded, as these divisions aimed to promote more of the fun part of the game than competition.

YOUTH

From Page 28

Syl Ada and Mark Flores are expected to be on hand along with Saipan Major League president and NMASA Hall of Famer Tony Rogolifoi to administer the exact same drills that the boys who attended the regional training center underwent in Guam this past July.

According to Rogolifoi, these clinics are designed to administer the exact same drills that the boys who attended the training center went through.

In related news, SLLBA will be holding its annual general membership meeting for all interested volunteers from 9am to 11am this morning at the pavilion across Palacios Ballfield.

Interested participants are asked to be on time because the Saturday youth clinic is set to start at 11am at the baseball field.

ALERT

From Page 28

The Marianas Coffee Trial Run is an annual signature event of the MVA and Marianas Coffee Co. The event is also sponsored by KFC Triathlon Japan, TEAM PDI, and Northern Mariana Athletics.

Registration on event day today is $40. All participants will receive a finisher's T-shirt, certificate of participation, and free entry to the awards banquet. The banquet will be held at Micro Beach at 11:30am on race day.

Awards, including Marianas Coffee giveaways, will be given to the first, second, and third place finishers in the male and female divisions. Medals will also be given to winners of the age divisions. The age divisions are: 18 yrs. and under, 19-29 years, 30-39 years, 40-49 years, and 50 years and up. Walkers for the 10K are also welcomed.

For more information, contact Ed Diaz of the MVA at ediaz@mymarianas.com or 664-3210. ***(PR)***

Giants sweep Arizona, clinch tie for NL West title

Page 25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Woods, Stricker paired for Ryder Cup start

Page 26

Shutdown closes Oleai Sports Complex

Two student-athletes read the closure notice at the south entrance of the Oleai Sports Complex, which was locked beginning yesterday due to government shutdown. Inset, the parking lot of the facility is empty because of the closure notice.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Friends Vanessa Prichard and Cristy Stackpole went to the Oleai Sports Complex for a walk on the track and field facility. A few minutes later, they had to cross the street to go to the pathway, as the Susupe facility was closed beginning yesterday until further notice due to the government shutdown.

"We come here at least twice a week for a walk. Running or walking at the track is not that painful to the knees compared to walking or running in the pavement. We're kind of disappointed to read the closure notice, but hopefully things will be better next week," Pritchard said.

Prichard and Stackpole were not the only ones who drove from home to the Susupe facility and were disappointed to read the closure notice. Three men in complete gym attire and hoping to do have their dollar-a-day visit at the weight room adjacent to the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium went back to their car after reading the notice.

If the shutdown continues, the facility will still be closed and more runners/walkers will join Pritchard and Stackpole in the pathway and health buffs will have to look for alternative inexpensive gyms.

See SHUTDOWN on Page 27

Shutouts highlight start of youth league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Teams in the 2010 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League got off to rousing starts, as four of the five games played in the opening day of the competition last Saturday resulted in shutout victories.

Winning their debut games convincingly were MP United Football Club's s boys U18 and U14 teams and Matansa and Paire's girls U14 squads.

Also scheduled to play in the opening week of the fall league were newcomer Shirley's Coffee Shop Football Club and Matansa, which won via forfeits over the Independents Football

See SHUTOUTS on Page 27

A Paire Football Club U18 player runs with the ball and is chased by MP United defenders during their game in the opening week of the NMIFA youth fall league last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Youth baseball clinics to continue through October

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Baseball Confederation of Oceania Regional Training Center-inspired youth baseball clinics will go the extra innings after the Saipan Little League Baseball Association extended it to October.

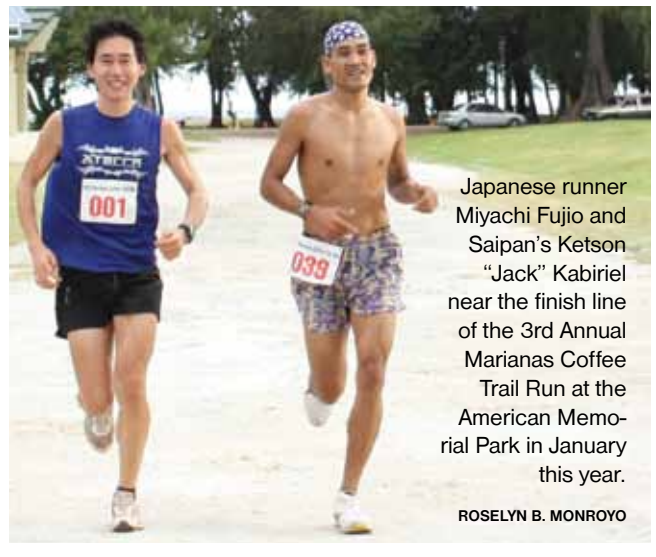
Today's free clinic is set to take place from 11am to 2pm at Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

It is open to all players from ages 13 to 18, provided that all participants come ready to play with all of their baseball equipment. This means players should show up on time with their hats, cleats, gloves, bats, water bottles, baseball pants, athletic cups, and/or batting gloves.

All SLLBA managers and coaches are invited to attend the clinics where

See YOUTH on Page 27

Alert driving sought for Marianas Coffee Trail Run



Japanese runner Miyachi Fujio and Saipan's Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel near the finish line of the 3rd Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run at the American Memorial Park in January this year.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Organizers of today's Marianas Coffee Trial Run are asking drivers to be alert for runners along the event's extended new course.

The run will begin at 6:30am at American Memorial Park, cross Beach Road and Chalan Pale Arnold, and proceed up Navy Hill to Mt. Tapochau.

The extended 30-kilometer course will run this year across Isa Drive on Capitol Hill to Wireless Ridge, before returning through Capitol Hill to Puerto Rico and then the finish line at American Memorial Park. The 10K course follows portions of the same route.

"We're looking to another fun and safe run for all the participants," said Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. "We'd like to remind drivers to exercise caution along this year's new route from the start of the race until it finishes around 10:30am."

See ALERT on Page 27